

World War III? Stalin Was Willing Papers Show He Urged Mao to Aid North Koreans Despite the Risks

By Walter Pincus
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — In early October 1950, as U.S. and South Korean forces advanced into Communist North Korea, the Soviet leader, Stalin, urged his Chinese counterpart, Mao, to send five or six Chinese divisions to aid Pyongyang even if it led to World War III, according to newly released Russian documents.

If a war is inevitable between the Communist giants and the Western powers, Stalin said, "then let it be waged now" and not years later when the alliance of Japan and America would be stronger, according to an Oct. 7, 1950, message.

That message was among the secret documents on the Korean War in the Russian Federation's presidential archives in Moscow that will soon be published in an issue of the Bulletin of the Cold War International History Project, based at the

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington.

According to the documents, Stalin apparently believed that the Soviet Union and China could win a major war with the West.

"We will be stronger than the U.S. and England; while the other European capitalist states (with the exception of Germany, which is unable to provide any assistance to the United States now) do not present serious military forces," Stalin assured Mao.

In addition to shedding light on Russian attitudes at the time, the documents are also noteworthy because they challenge some long-held views on China's entry into the Korean War.

The previously accepted account of Mao's decision to aid the North Koreans was based on another document, dated Oct. 2, supposedly from Chinese archives and previously published by the Beijing

government. In it, Mao said in a telegram to Stalin, "We have decided to send some of our troops to Korea under the name of Volunteers to fight the United States and its lackey," South Korea.

But the Russian version of the Oct. 2 message to Stalin suggests for the first time that Mao hesitated about entering the war. Instead, the Chinese Communist leader told Stalin that he and his colleagues had "originally planned to move several volunteer divisions to North Korea" but had reconsidered because "such actions could elicit extremely serious consequences" including "open conflict between the U.S. and China, as a consequence of which the Soviet Union can also be dragged into war that would be extremely large."

A week later, the documents show, Mao had changed his mind, and he sent his troops into Korea to battle the Americans and their allies in a critical intervention that preserved North Korea as a Communist state.

After analyzing the two Oct. 2 documents, a Soviet scholar, Alexander Y. Mansurov, said that he believed the Russian version was more reliable.



A Bosnian soldier, who lost a leg, seeing U.S. troops arrive Wednesday in Tuzla.

NATO's Turn In Bosnia As UN Flags Come Down

Alliance Takes Charge
Of a Tenuous Peace
In a Ravaged Land

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — After repeated humiliation and the death of 107 of its soldiers, the United Nations peacekeeping mission to Bosnia ended Wednesday, leaving a ravaged country tenuously at peace and the virtual certainty that such an operation will never again be attempted on such terms.

The mission began in confusion almost four years ago and was continuously beset by the basic conundrum that there was no peace to keep in Bosnia. It ended, after great sacrifice, with Bosnian sovereignty preserved on paper but little more, and the blue-and-white flag of the United Nations stained with the blood of thousands of civilians it had vowed to protect.

As the UN flags at the Sarajevo airport came down, an American officer took command of international military operations Wednesday and declared that the NATO forces under him had come not "as a bunch of cowboys looking for a fight" but "on a peaceful mission."

If the mission, planned to last for one year, is successful, the Clinton administration will be able to go into elections next year with its main foreign policy headache largely resolved. But if the peace concluded in Dayton, Ohio, last month unravels and American casualties prove heavy, the domestic price for President Bill Clinton could prove to be high.

In a somber ceremony at the airport, the scene of some of the worst early battles of the war and still a no man's land between rival parts of the city, the commander of United Nations forces in the former Yugoslavia, General Bernard Janvier of France, announced that military authority had been transferred to the so-called implementation force of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The NATO commander, Admiral Leighton Smith, was not present at the moment of the handover because fog at the airport prevented his plane from landing. He arrived four hours later by helicopter, and the ceremony was reconvened to allow for speeches by all sides.

It was a moment of unity and mutual congratulation between the United Nations and NATO after a war long marked by differences between them over what measure of force, if any, should be used to stop the war.

In effect, the messy deployment of UN forces here reflected the confused response of the world to the sudden outbreak of a European war that threatened the vital interests of no major power but continuously flouted Western values, confounded the initial optimism of a Europe no longer divided, and threatened a wider Balkan conflict.

The response — feed the victims, contain the war, and create a few "safe areas" for Muslim civilians to demonstrate that a certain barbarism will not be tolerated by the United Nations — fulfilled some of its aims. But the fall of the "safe area" of Srebrenica last July, with its ensuing Serbian massacre of Muslims, finally demonstrated that the enterprise was flawed beyond repair.

"We thought deterrence could be based on the moral authority of the United Nations, but we learned that moral authority is not enough," said Antonio Padellaro, civilian chief of the UN Bosnia mission. "When the Serbs realized that there was a 155-millimeter cannon on top of Mount Igman, they understood the language."

It took more than three years of war, however, before the United Nations deployed such guns on the mountains southwest of Sarajevo this summer, and by then the Bosnian state recognized in April 1992 by the United Nations was in shreds, much of it in the hands of separatist Serbs.

There was one central problem over which successive UN military commanders and civilian leaders agonized as the killing of over 200,000 people went on. How could the "neutrality" or "impartiality" many of them believed to be essential to a peacekeeping mission be preserved in the face of

See BOSNIA, Page 10

Seoul, Jittery, Sees a Menace in North

By Kevin Sullivan
Washington Post Service

SEOUL — A dangerous winter has arrived in North Korea.

President Kim Young Sam of South Korea and other officials have warned that hunger and economic desperation could tempt North Korea's leaders to consider a military strike against South Korea.

But many here say that although North Korea's food shortage is extremely serious, it is not dire enough for the North Koreans to start a war.

The only really predictable thing about North Korea is that it is unpredictable, and even optimistic analysts have urged that it should be given more food aid this winter but that it must be handled with extreme caution.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"We better not underestimate the basic, fundamental problems of North Korea at this moment," said Kil Jeong Woo, a columnist for the Joong Ang Daily News who was once an official of South Korea's

National Unification Board. "We should be prepared for the unexpected."

President Kim, noting that North Korea recently moved troops and warplanes closer to the already tense border, has cautioned his nation to be even more vigilant.

Mr. Kim has suggested that North Korea may try to capitalize on the unprecedented upheavals in South Korean politics in the last two months. The argument goes that with two former South Korean presidents imprisoned on corruption and insurrection

See KOREA, Page 10

Cutting Traffic: EU Reaches for Tax-Toll Brake

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union unveiled ambitious proposals Wednesday to ease debilitating traffic congestion in cities and cut pollution from cars and trucks.

The traffic-cutting plan aims to slash gridlock by imposing unspecified new taxes and tolls on cars and trucks in heavily congested areas.

The EU transportation commissioner, Neil Kinnock, said it was only fair that those who create congestion should bear more of costs now shared evenly by all taxpayers.

He said possible steps included new road tolls in cities, higher taxes on vehicles that cause most pollution and road damage, and charges to drivers based on total mileage driven.

The proposals also call for improving fuel efficiency by encouraging research in to more economical vehicles and creating incentives for consumers to buy them.

"We must move from gas-guzzling to gas-sipping cars," said the EU environmental commissioner, Ritt Bjerregaard.

The European Commission will submit both plans — now general ideas rather than concrete proposals — to the 15 EU governments in the hope that they will help draft legislation and then adopt it.

The commission estimates that traffic costs 225 billion European currency units (\$293 billion) a year in road damage, lost work time, pollution clean-up, and treatment of respiratory problems.

The anti-pollution plan calls for commitments by automakers to develop more efficient vehicles, tax breaks for consumers who buy efficient cars, and more money for research into fuel efficiency.

Such steps are needed to help the Union reach internationally agreed targets for cutting emissions of gases responsible for global warming, Mrs. Bjerregaard said.

Without new legislation, she said, carbon-dioxide emissions from vehicles will increase by more than 30 percent by 2010.

Russia Will Stay on 'Road of Reform,' Yeltsin Says

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — President Boris N. Yeltsin, in his first public statement since the election in which Communists made major gains, said Russia would "not leave the road of reform."

Speaking at the government health resort of Barvikha, where he is recuperating from a heart ailment, Mr. Yeltsin said, "We have no reason to worry or assess the elections as a tragedy."

The president said he could work with a Parliament in which 80 percent of the vote counted, the Central Election Commission said Wednesday that the Communists had received 21 percent of the vote.

By most estimates, the Communists and nationalists will control 40 percent to 45 percent of the seats in the 450-member lower house, the State Duma.

"I'm sure that the majority of Russians don't stand for communism," Mr. Yeltsin was quoted by Interfax as saying. In some countries "there are more Communists in parliaments, but there they find ways of interaction and normal democratic development."

His comments followed by a day similar remarks in which Prime Minister Viktor S. Chernomyrdin said there would not be major shifts in government policy in response to the elections.

Under the 1993 constitution, Mr. Yeltsin is not required to advise the government after a parliamentary election. However, Foreign Minister Andrei V. Kozyrev, who was elected to Parliament, is expected to resign shortly.

See RUSSIA, Page 10



A detachment of Russian soldiers crossing Red Square in Moscow on Wednesday. Election results further confirmed the Communists' victory Sunday.

An End to Green Christmases for Congress

By Guy Gugliotta
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — 'Twas a few days before Christmas, and Santa Claus was strolling the halls of Congress for the last time. A little popcorn here, some chocolate there and a free meal or two, but lobbyists' gift-giving, a holiday fixture on Capitol Hill for generations, appears to be going gently into the night, mourned by few.

This year, capitalizing on a new spirit of self-denial, both the Senate and House passed gift-ban legislation after many tries. Beginning Jan. 1, there will be no more golf trips, banquets, Caribbean conventions or other pricey perks that made Congress much more than just the daily barangue.

With the lobbying bill signed into law by

President Bill Clinton on Tuesday, 1995 figured to be the last hurrah for high-priced Christmas cheer. But indications are lobbyists have decided to pick up the new guidelines early.

"Normally, you'd go out in the hall and the carts would be filled with booze and gifts and packages of frankincense and myrrh," said Tom Korologos, a veteran lobbyist. "We said the hell with it, you win, we give up. It's over."

Beginning Jan. 1, senators can only accept gifts worth less than \$50, with exemptions for home-state products and foodstuffs. In the House, members get nothing except items that qualify under 23 exemptions, including home-state products, baseball caps and T-shirts.

Chocolates abound this year, as do cookies, oranges and other edibles, but the big

items are few. The golf tournaments are out, since Congress is still in session with no prospects of leaving for a pre-New Year's trip to Florida. And the holiday spirit is notably absent in the rancorous budget debate that has gripped Congress and put 280,000 federal employees out of work only days before Christmas.

"I have to think the shutdowns have a lot to do with it," said George Liapis, owner of Bullfeathers restaurant, a favorite watering hole near the House. "I kind of get a feeling that Christmas parties are a lot less popular than they used to be."

In a normal year, Mr. Liapis caters 15 to 20 parties every holiday season for lobbyists and lawmakers. This year, he's below 10. And as far as gifts go, pickings are

See GIFTS, Page 10

AGENDA

Queen Urges Charles-Diana Divorce

PAGE TWO
California's Economy Speeds Forward

ASIA
Chun to Be Tried on Mutiny Charge

EUROPE
Chirac Hopes Talks Heal Strikes' Scars

BUSINESS/FINANCE
Budget Impasse Pushed Down Lower

Opinion
Page 8. Crossword Page 20.

International Classified Page 4.

LONDON (Reuters) — Queen Elizabeth II has written to Prince Charles and his estranged wife, Princess Diana, advising them to divorce, a television report said Wednesday.

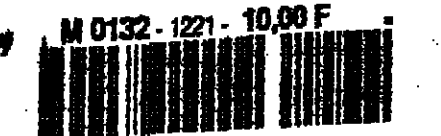
The queen was reportedly concerned about the effect of the failed marriage on the two sons of Charles and Diana. Independent Television News said. It said Charles had agreed to formally end a marriage which began with a fairy-tale wedding in 1981.

Diana had an hour-long meeting with Prime Minister John Major at her Kensington Palace home earlier Wednesday. Mr. Major's office declined comment.

Down	Up
50.57	0.73%
5069.32	130.44

The Dollar	Yen	Mark	Swiss
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101.725	4.9405	4.9565	

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Gabon 1.100 CFA	Spain 225 PTAS
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After Five Years of Agony / 'California Is Back'

Economic Engine Revs Up Again

By B. Drummond Ayres Jr.
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — Battered for five years by Mother Nature and the worst recession since the Depression, California is finally beginning to recover its standing as the United States' most powerful economic machine.

Job growth in the state is running better than 2.3 percent annually, in contrast to the national rate of 1.5 percent, thanks to an employment explosion in the entertainment industry, advanced technology manufacturing and international trade — the new Big Three of the California economy.

By early next year, economists say, most of the 525,000 jobs lost in the five-year recession will have been replaced — although without any real recovery in the construction, aerospace and military industries, the old Big Three whose collapse led the state into its grinding downturn.

"California is back!" Governor Pete Wilson now boasts, which has prompted his aides to order him a limousine license plate with that happy proclamation.

The great exodus of people fleeing to other states to escape California's fires, floods, earthquakes, riots and economic collapses, including the Orange County bankruptcy debacle, has slowed sharply, as much as 20 percent, according to real estate agents and driving permit bureaus in some of those states.

Conversely, housing agents and driving bureau officials in California say that the migration rate this year to California from other states is running more than 15 percent ahead of last year's.

Demographers report that California — still the most populous American state, with almost 33 million people — is again becoming a magnet for the young, adventurous, entrepreneurial types who have flocked here for more than 150 years.

Based on current trends, demographers say, in the coming decade California's population will increase by 1.6 percent a year, while the nation will grow by 0.9 percent a year.

Before its economy collapsed, the total value of California's annual output of goods and services was about \$750 billion, enough to rank it not only as the biggest economy in the United States, but also as the eighth largest among all the economies of the world.

With its gross product now close to \$900 billion, California has regained that economic status and now even ranks seventh among the world's economies.

"It's been an impressive bounce back from a really tough place," said David Hensley, a specialist on the California economy for Salomon Brothers Inc., the New York financial concern.

"The old California energy is back in the air," he said. "There's the old churning and dreaming and business adventurism. There's also the old determined optimism that sees opportunity in the ashes of recession, earthquakes and fire. I'm definitely bullish on California."

Howard Flagg, president of PairGain, a Los Angeles area manufacturer of advanced telecommunications equipment, was one of those who saw opportunity in the depths of adversity and helped turn the state's economy around. His company has increased gross sales tenfold in the last three years, to more than \$100 million annually.

"We decided to expand right when things were at the worst in the state," he said. "We never lost faith in California or cutting-edge industries like ours that we're convinced are the state's future. We were positioned right and the time was right and we moved, even while others were still sinking. It's the old California success story."

But there are some qualifiers. Despite all the favorable economic indicators, the state's unemployment rate in recent months has been hovering stubbornly around 8 percent, at least two percentage points above the national rate. As much as anything, that high figure reflects just how low California's economy fell during the recession and how far it still has to go to fully recover.

Moreover, the most recent figures from the Labor Department in Washington indicate that the state's unemployment rate could be as much as three points above the national rate, though many employment experts question that estimate, saying the recovery is moving so fast that labor surveys cannot accurately follow it.

COMING UP

In the Alps, where glaciers are monitored more closely than anywhere else in the world, researchers say the ice cover has been shrinking rapidly. The main questions asked are: Precisely how fast is the ice melting? And, is the rate of melting accelerating? The answers will help determine if temperatures are indeed rising because of human activities.

Also, the California housing market, once the most overheated in the nation, remains in the economic doldrums, as does the residential construction industry. Many houses — those few that are selling — are going for 30 percent and 40 percent less than they might have brought at the turn of the decade.

Nor is there any sign that the hard-hit aerospace and defense industries will soon make an economic comeback, given the big national cutbacks in both fields.

And if California has to contend with another natural disaster or if the national economy falters, the state's economy might again find itself in big trouble.

But in any case, for the moment most businesses here are doing very well, and expectations of success are running high again.

"The pluses far outweigh the minuses, and they are especially dramatic because many trace their roots to the depths of the recession, when everything else seemed headed down the tubes," said Stephen Levy, director of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy.

From 1990 to 1995, for example, international trade grew so rapidly in California — 70 percent over all — that the twin ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles overtook the ports of New York City and northern New Jersey as the nation's busiest. The value of goods going across the California docks is nearing \$150 billion a year, compared with about \$140 billion for the New York area docks.

Equally striking — and equally unheralded until recently — while the recession and cutbacks in military spending slashed employment in the state's defense industries to 150,000 workers, from a high of more than 400,000, employment in the film and television industry was almost doubling.

At the start of the recession, Hollywood employed about 85,000 people. Now, according to the California Employment Development Department, the industry employs as many people as hold jobs in what is left of the defense industry.

The ultimate economic metaphor for this switch may have been the construction site recently chosen for the newest high-tech California studio, DreamWorks. It is an old hangar once used to build military aircraft.

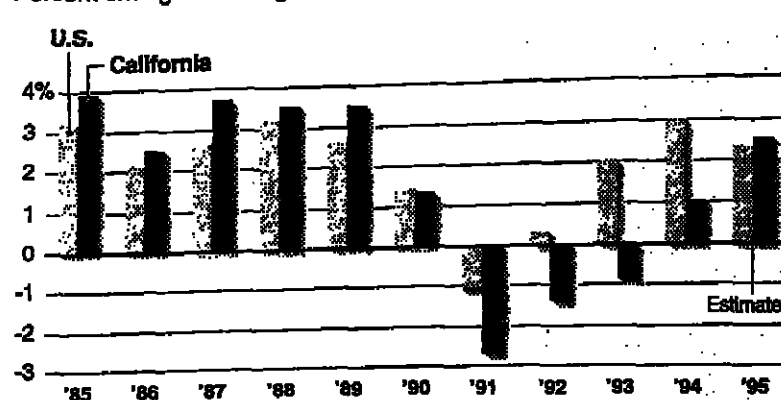
Along with DreamWorks, nearly 43,000 new businesses have been incorporated in California in the last year, a 7 percent increase. For the nation as a whole, the rate was 5 percent. Many of the new businesses that were

A CLOSER LOOK

California's Economy Rebounds

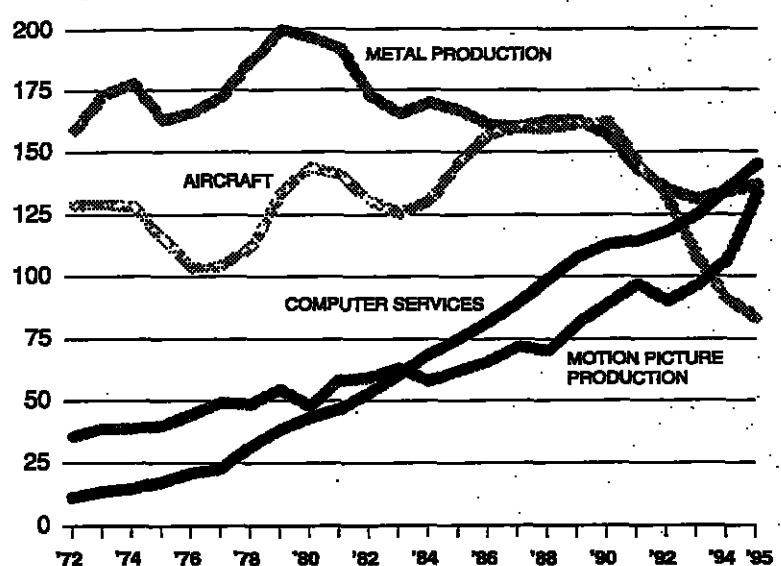
JOB GROWTH HAS RECOVERED

Percent change in nonagricultural employment from previous year.



BECAUSE SOME INDUSTRIES ARE BOOMING, EVEN AS TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES FADE

Employment, in thousands.



Sources: State of California; Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy
The New York Times

incorporated were in entertainment, advanced technology and international trade, industries that have now fully replaced the aerospace, military contracting and construction industries as the economic pillars of California. And the new companies tend to pay higher salaries than the older industries, thus raising average earnings in the state.

Twenty-two percent of California households now have annual incomes of more than \$75,000, compared with 17 percent nationally.

"This is a recovery like no other, in a state that has had its full share of boom and bust over the years — the gold rush, the oil gush, the house craze, aerospace and defense contracting," said Joel Kotkin, an analyst at Pepperdine University in Malibu.

"The fundamental economic mix has changed hugely," he continued, "and it's the kind of change that is positioning the state extremely well for the 21st century."

Library's Slavery Exhibit Is Pulled After Objections

By Marc Fisher
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — For the second time this month, the Library of Congress has bowed to criticism and scrapped an exhibit — this time, on the day the show was supposed to open to the public.

Library workers Tuesday dismantled "Back of the Big House: The Cultural Landscape of the Plantation," an exhibit depicting slave life on Southern plantations through the library's collection of photographs and first-person accounts by former slaves. It was to have been on display until the end of January.

A library spokeswoman, Jill D. Brett,

said many black staff members and officials "took umbrage" after the exhibit was installed Monday and argued that the display lacked a historical context. "It just was felt," she said, "that if a lot of people were offended, it just wasn't worth it."

The Library of Congress is the U.S. national library, a depository of historical documents as well as a research arm of Congress. Its exhibitions of documents usually do not provoke any controversy.

But earlier this month, library officials indefinitely postponed a planned exhibition on Freud after protests by academics who say his psychoanalytical

theories have been discredited. Library officials said the show, "Sigmund Freud: Conflict and Culture," was shelved because of a lack of money; some library staff members said outside pressure was the decisive factor.

The curator of the slavery exhibition, Professor John Michael Vlach of George Washington University, said he was never informed of any discord over the display, which has traveled this year without incident to five university museums and historic houses.

Ms. Brett said the exhibition was reviewed by three outside experts in the field, two of whom are black, who raised no objections about content.

But after Mr. Vlach's exhibition was installed, several black staff members complained that the exhibition lacked material on "the negative aspects of slavery," Ms. Brett said.

Winston Tabb, the associate librarian who Ms. Brett said made the decision to scrap the exhibit, declined to comment.

The librarian of Congress, James H. Billington, called the removal of the exhibit a "complete nonstarter," saying the display would have been seen primarily by library staff members, not the public. The exhibition was installed on the sixth floor of the library's Madison Building, where the agency's top officials have their offices.

2,000 Strikers Jam Airport In Brussels

Reuters

BRUSSELS — Striking workers of the Belgian national airline, Sabena, clashed with police Wednesday at Brussels airport, adding to the chaos for passengers after the carrier canceled flights for the second day in a row.

A crowd of up to 2,000 jeering protesters threw stones, breaking glass doors of the recently opened airport terminal, as well as eggs and firecrackers as the police barred them from entering the building.

Police turned water cannons on demonstrators who had gone onto the airport tarmac, before rounding them up.

There were no reports of injuries, and by mid-afternoon the protesters had largely dispersed.

Sabena had already canceled or diverted all its flights to and from Brussels for the second straight day.

Faced with the impossibility of guaranteeing the safety of passengers, employees and ground crew, Sabena management has decided to suspend its operations from Brussels National Airport until Wednesday evening, the airline said in a statement.

While air passengers faced frustration, most of Belgium's rail traffic returned to normal Wednesday morning after suffering near-paralysis on Tuesday due to strikes by workers at the national railroad company, SNCB.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Transport Still Hobbled in Marseille

PARIS (Reuters) — Transport problems dragged on Wednesday in Marseille as strikers were slow to return to work, but service was nearly normal in the rest of France, officials said.

Apart from Marseille, the sole major problem area for the state railroad company, SNCF, was high-speed Eurostar service between Paris and Brussels, with just two round-trips planned Wednesday — this time because of a strike by Belgian rather than French rail workers.

In Paris, Metro and suburban train lines were also restored to near-normal levels. About 80 percent of Paris-area buses were running, the RATP regional transport authority said.

Train, bus and tram drivers were returning to work gradually in Marseille, however, and a first high-speed TGV train left the city for Avignon and Paris to the north a little over an hour late.

EU Takes Side of Air Accident Victims

BRUSSELS (IHT) — The European Commission proposed Wednesday to require the bloc's airlines to offer much greater compensation to passengers involved in accidents, which would put European carriers on roughly equal footing with American and Japanese airlines.

The commission said it would propose that carriers take automatic responsibility for accidents and pay damages of up to 100,000 European currency units (\$130,000) for each passenger injured or killed, regardless of whether or not the airline was negligent. The law also would require urgent payments of 50,000 Euros to survivors within 10 days of an accident.

Venice Pigeons Stir Health Concern

ROME (AFP) — An outbreak of salmonella poisoning among thousands of pigeons in Saint Mark's Square in Venice could spread to humans if the birds are not culled, city officials said.

The 5,000 pigeons that circle the square cause enormous damage, but are a great tourist draw. But Mayor Massimo Cacciari said they "presented a serious risk of infection." He has asked the veterinary department to dissect the square and collect the bodies of the approximately 100 pigeons that die each day.

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Austria	002-908-014	El Salvador	554-4777	Laos	0044-55-577	Philippines (Cebu)	105-411
Bahamas	1-800-869-2111	Finland	800-1776	Malaysia	0060-3-277	Poland	105-411
Bahrain	800-777	France	001-800-100-3	Mexico	001-800-1-0234	Portugal	00351-21-417
Barbados	1-800-877-8000	Germany	19-00027	Moldova	800-1776	Romania	0040-21-417
Belgium	0800-10014	Greece	010-0018	Netherlands	020-001-411	Russia (Moscow)	007-09-0877
Belize	555	Hong Kong	008-001-411	Norway	155-0777	Saudi Arabia	00966-11-1111
Bermuda	800-10014	India	950-1366	Poland	0048-22-1111	Senegal	00221-1111
Bolivia	800-10014	Indonesia (Jakarta)	0062-21-1111	Spain	0034-91-1111	Singapore	0065-673-1111
Brazil	800-10014	Italy	0039-02-1111	Sweden	0046-8-1111	South Africa	0027-11-1111
British Virgin Islands	00800-1010	Japan (JST)	875	Switzerland	0041-11-1111	Taiwan	00886-2-1111
Bulgaria	00359-2-1111	Kenya	800-1776	Thailand	0066-2-1111	Tanzania	00255-11-1111
Canada	1-800-877-8000	Korea (KST)	0082-2-1111	Turkey	0090-312-1111	Trinidad & Tobago	00868-61-1111
Cayman Islands	1-800-236-4663	Laos	00856-21-1111	Ukraine	00380-44-1111	USA (New York)	1-800-877-8000
Chile	0056-2-1111	Malaysia	0060-3-277	USA (Los Angeles)	1-800-877-8000	USA (San Francisco)	1-800-877-8000
China	0086-10-1111	Mexico	0052-5-1111	USA (Seattle)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Washington DC)	1-800-877-8000
China (Beijing)	0086-10-1111	Netherlands	0031-20-1111	USA (Denver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Phoenix)	1-800-877-8000
China (Shanghai)	0086-21-1111	Norway	0047-22-1111	USA (Portland)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Portland)	1-800-877-8000
China (Tianjin)	0086-22-1111	Poland	0048-22-1111	USA (San Diego)	1-800-877-8000	USA (San Diego)	1-800-877-8000
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China (Zhangjiakou)	0086-31-1111	Romania	0040-21-417	USA (Stockholm)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Stockholm)	1-800-877-8000
Cuba	0053-7-1111	Russia (Moscow)	007-09-0877	USA (Tampa)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Tampa)	1-800-877-8000
Czech Republic	0042-087-187	Saudi Arabia	00966-11-1111	USA (Tucson)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Tucson)	1-800-877-8000
Denmark	800-1776	Senegal	00221-1111	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
Ecuador	554-4777	Singapore	0065-673-1111	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
El Salvador	800-777	South Africa	0027-11-1111	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
Finland	800-1776	Sweden	0046-8-1111	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
France	19-00027	Switzerland	0041-11-1111	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
Germany	010-0018	Taiwan	00886-2-1111	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
Greece	008-001-411	Tanzania	00255-11-1111	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
Hong Kong	008-001-411	Trinidad & Tobago	00868-61-1111	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
India	950-1366	USA (New York)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
Indonesia (Jakarta)	0062-21-1111	USA (San Francisco)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
Italy	0039-02-1111	USA (Seattle)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
Japan (JST)	875	USA (Stockholm)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
Kenya	800-1776	USA (Tampa)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
Korea (KST)	0082-2-1111	USA (Tucson)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
Laos	00856-21-1111	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
Malaysia	0060-3-277	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
Mexico	0052-5-1111	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000	USA (Vancouver)	1-800-877-8000
Netherlands	0031-20-1111	USA (Vancouver)					

THE AMERICAS

Clinton Breaks Off Talks on a Budget Compromise

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Budget talks collapsed Wednesday after President Bill Clinton scuttled an Oval Office meeting with Republican congressional leaders and accused "the most extreme" House Republicans of renegeing on a deal that could have ended the government's partial shutdown.

Mr. Clinton said, "This is a very troubling development."
The president said he had talked twice with Bob Dole of Kansas, the leader of the Senate's Republican majority, who he said was "making a good faith" effort to settle the impasse.

In reaction to the worsening prospects for a budget settlement, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped sharply near the close of trading, drag-

ging the index down more than 50 points for the day.

Mr. Clinton had been scheduled to meet Wednesday with Mr. Dole and Newt Gingrich, the speaker of the House, to discuss ending the shutdown.

Mr. Clinton rejected a Republican demand to keep the government partly closed until agreement on a balanced budget is reached. Mr. Clinton said that ran counter to an arrangement he made with Mr. Dole and Mr. Gingrich on Tuesday to work to end the impasse.

"The most extreme members of the House of Representatives rejected that agreement," Mr. Clinton said.

Those members want to force the government to stay closed until they accept their deep and harmful cuts.

He urged the conservative House

Republicans to "let the speaker honor his commitment."

Republicans were furious at the White House for sending mixed signals on what the Republicans thought was an agreement to use Congressional Budget Office figures in the negotiations.

In a sharp rebuke of Mr. Gingrich and House Republicans, Mr. Clinton wondered out loud if "the tail will keep wagging the dog over there."

Mr. Clinton spoke just minutes after defiant House Republicans, summoned to an emergency afternoon caucus meeting, shouted their approval of a resolution calling for reopening the government when balanced-budget legislation is presented to the Congress.

A senior House Republican, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Republicans told the White House they would not reopen shuttered government agencies until the deal on balancing the budget is completed.

The White House press secretary, Michael McCurry, said 3.3 million veterans and their survivors would receive their Jan. 1 benefits check late unless a stopgap spending bill is passed by Thursday.

Republicans said Mr. Clinton has only himself to blame because he vetoed a bill funding the Department of Veterans Affairs.

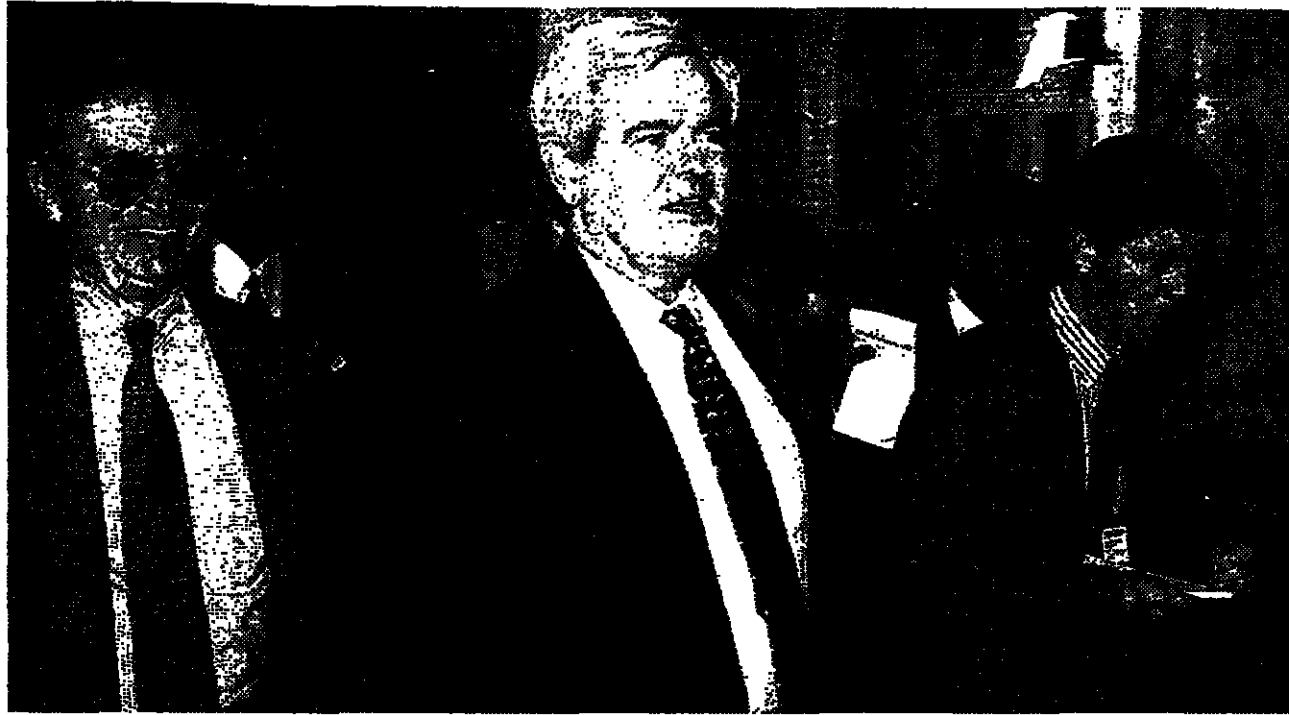
Meanwhile, conservative Democrats said they were growing impatient with the administration and party liberals and will start talking about a deal

to override a veto if there isn't progress in the budget talks.

"If they aren't a long ways down the road to a deal," said Representative Collin Peterson of Minnesota, speaking for 22 conservative Democrats, "we're going to start working on a different strategy" to make the accord veto-proof. "We've told them that."

First-term House Republicans filed a news conference in which they declared they were adamant about balancing the budget using Congressional Budget Office economic estimates that will require deeper spending cuts.

"Prior Congresses would have cooked the books with a wink and a smile and claimed victory," said Representative Jon Fox, Republican of Pennsylvania. "We will not do that."



Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia heading to the House floor Wednesday after talks with White House officials.

Nixon Papers Offer Tidbits of History

Dole Was Seeking Favors

By Tim Weiner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The National Archives has released a 50,000-page grab bag of long-classified documents from President Richard Nixon's White House — no smoking guns, but fascinating fragments, from a slew of favor-seeking memos by Senator Bob Dole to an early draft of a plan for spying on leftists.

The 25-year-old thoughts of several present-day presidential contenders are in the files: admiring notes by Pat Buchanan, then a young Nixon aide; querulous and complimentary letters from Mr. Dole, Republican National Committee chairman from 1971 to 1973; and internal White House messages contemplating setting Mr. Dole to work digging up dirt on the president's political foes.

The papers, declassified by the archives and made public Tuesday in response to researchers' requests, include letters from Mr. Dole that poured into the Nixon White House, sometimes daily. They sought scores of patronage jobs for friends and constituents, political favors from executive clemency to 100th birthday telephone calls, and support for Mr. Dole's favorite causes, like the corn-based gasoline additives made by a longtime sponsor, the agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland.

They also sought responses to stunningly obscure inquiries from the senator's Kansas constituents: questions about car repairs, home-canning tips and undelivered mail.

Mr. Dole did not always succeed in finding administration jobs for his friends and allies. "Kansas may yet land one appointment," he wrote tartly to a presidential assistant, Bryce Harlow, in April 1969. "We do have an inside track on a janitor's job at the USDA."

And Mr. Dole was hardly the only favor-seeker at the Nixon White House. Ross Perot sought help with "Wall Street troubles," says a 1973 memo. And 18-year-old John Kasich, now chairman of the House Budget Committee, scrawled a five-page letter seeking an internship. He was rejected.

The files also contain the glowing words of Mr.

Buchanan, one of Mr. Nixon's youngest aides, as he watched the boss in action.

"The president entered about 8:30 A.M., looking surprisingly rested and even tanned following his trip," Mr. Buchanan noted on March 4, 1969, referring to a Nixon trip to Europe. By contrast, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, the Massachusetts Democrat, looked "inordinately ruddy, as though he had either been on the slopes for the weekend, or on the town for the night."

Two other members of the Republican presidential field, Senator Richard G. Lugar, then mayor of Indianapolis and a favorite of Mr. Nixon's, and Lamar Alexander, then a rising star in Tennessee, also show up in the newly declassified files, but only in passing.

The files include a June 4, 1970, memo to Mr. Nixon from an aide, Tom Charles Huston. It is the earliest record of a plan to put American intelligence agencies to work spying on American groups "determined to destroy our society" — those opposed to Mr. Nixon and the war in Vietnam.

Judge Recuses Self In Case on Rights Of Gay Soldiers

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A judge who opposed banning homosexuals from the military withdrew from hearing an appeal on the government's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The withdrawal by the judge, Guido Calabresi, forced a postponement of what would have been the first appeal of a lower court ruling that found unconstitutional the policy that allows homosexuals to remain in the military only if they keep their sexual orientation secret.

The government had protested that Judge Calabresi had signed a petition in 1993 opposing banning homosexuals from the military. At the time, Judge Calabresi was dean of Yale Law School.

The disputed policy prevents commanders from investigating homosexual activity unless they receive compelling evidence that it is going on.

POLITICAL NOTES

House Overrides Clinton Veto

WASHINGTON — Joined by 89 Democrats, House Republicans for the first time successfully overrode a veto by President Bill Clinton on Wednesday, countering his attempt to block a bill restricting class-action security fraud lawsuits.

With the 319 to 100 vote in the House, 29 above the two-thirds needed, the legislation now moves to the Senate. With a two-thirds vote there, the bill aimed at protecting investors from fraudulent and abusive lawsuits would become law.

The veto override came only hours after Mr. Clinton's late-night announcement that he was rejecting the bill because it did not adequately protect those with legitimate legal claims.

It was the first time the House has tried to override a veto. Mr. Clinton has vetoed 10 bills this year — four in the past two days.

Many Democrats who had stuck with Mr. Clinton in his vetoes of spending bills said the president had made a bad decision this time.

"Much of his objections are of a nitpicking nature," said Representative Jim Moran, Democrat of Virginia. "It's legalistic."

Mr. Clinton issued his veto minutes before a midnight Tuesday deadline, surprising Republicans who had made the legislation a cornerstone of their campaign to limit lawsuits.

"By vetoing this bill, President Clinton has turned his back on everyone who owns a mutual fund, participates in a pension plan, or has a job at a public company," said Representative Christopher Cox, Republican of California. "It took 12 months to craft this legislation, it took 12 seconds for the president to set us back."

Setback for Perot's Party in Ohio

WASHINGTON — In the first organizational setback for

Ross Perot's new Reform Party, Ohio officials announced that party organizers had failed to collect enough signatures to secure a spot on the state's March 19 primary ballot.

The ruling is likely to have little effect on the new party's role in the 1996 presidential race. By continuing to collect signatures, the Reform Party can still run presidential and vice-presidential candidates in Ohio in the general election.

Mr. Perot had already announced that the Reform Party would skip next year's presidential primaries, choosing instead to nominate its presidential ticket at a convention in the summer. The Texas businessman, who won 19 percent of the vote in the 1992 presidential election, has said that he does not plan to use the new party as a vehicle for a second Perot candidacy. But he has also not ruled out running.

The more significant result of the ruling Tuesday is that it will prevent the Reform Party from fielding candidates for all other offices in Ohio, including county commissions, the state legislature and Congress.

Answer Is Still No, Powell Says

SARASOTA, Florida — General Colin Powell says he is flattered, but he disagrees with the speculation of Bob Dole, the Republican presidential front-runner, that he would accept the Republican's vice presidential nomination if it were offered.

"I have great respect for Senator Dole," General Powell told about 800 people at a speech in Florida. "We have never discussed this issue, but at this point in my life I am still of the view that for me and my family I should make my contribution in private life."

Quote/Unquote

Senator Bob Dole, the majority leader, about prospects for resolving the budget dispute with the White House: "It's a big step. We're serious about this now."



FOR WANT OF A SHOE — Coroner's employees carrying the body of one of the six victims of a gunman at a New York City shoe store. The police shot and arrested a man who was apparently upset that the store did not have his size.

Away From Politics

A jumbo jet carrying more than 400 passengers skidded off a runway after its pilot aborted takeoff during a heavy snowstorm at Kennedy Airport in New York. No injuries were reported. Tower Air's Flight 41 to Miami experienced some unspecified problems during takeoff that caused the pilot to abort, said an airport spokeswoman. A spokeswoman for Tower said that an icy runway after two days of snow and cold temperatures was the suspected cause of the accident, but a Federal Aviation Authority spokeswoman said the cause was under investigation. It was unknown how far into takeoff the Boeing 747 jetliner was when the pilot aborted. The airport was closed after the incident.

Massachusetts has become the fifth state to bring suit against the largest American tobacco companies in an effort to recoup Medicaid and other health care costs for treating smoking-related illnesses. In a complaint filed in Massachusetts Superior Court, Attorney General Scott Harshbarger accused the tobacco industry of conspiring for decades "to mislead, deceive and confuse" Massachusetts and its citizens about the dangers of smoking. The suit seeks more than \$1 billion in damages.

O. J. Simpson's financial records can be scrutinized by the families suing him in a wrongful death lawsuit, a judge in Santa Monica, California, ruled. The families of Ronald Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson, slain in 1994, are seeking damages

through civil law from Mr. Simpson, who was acquitted of murder charges.

Newly powerful Mexican drug lords may be ready to seize control of the U.S. cocaine market by shouldering aside the Colombian Cali cartel now that many of its leaders are in custody, warned the head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Thomas Constatine.

High winds and heavy snows whipped up blizzard-like conditions from the Plains to the northeastern United States. As much as 12 inches (31 centimeters) of snow fell in Ohio overnight. New York and Boston each received 9 inches (23 centimeters), while Newark, New Jersey, had 7 inches (18 centimeters).



SALTO CAXIAS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT IGUAÇU RIVER

INTERNATIONAL BIDDING C-205

HYDROMECHANICAL EQUIPMENT FOR RIVER DIVERSION CALL FOR BIDS

COMPANHIA PARANAENSE DE ENERGIA-COPEL, informs that an international bidding is opened for design, supply, shipment, erection supervision and operation start-up of fifteen (15) slide gates and two (2) wheel gates for river diversion and two (2) complete wheel gates for compensation water of Salto Caxias Powerplant, located at Capão Leônidas Marques and Nova Prata do Iguaçu county border, in the States of Paraná - Brazil.

This lowest price type international bidding is opened to individual companies or joint ventures.

The amount of costs related to this supply will be covered by COPEL's own resources.

The Bid Documents will be available to bidders from December 15th, 1995 till January 31st, 1996 against payment in Brazilian currency of R\$ 150,00 (one hundred and fifty Reals), at the following address:

• Superintendência de Obras de Geração
Rua Voluntários da Pátria, 233 - 5º andar - sala 504
80020-000 - Curitiba - PR
Phone (55-41) 322-1212 - Ext. 5541
Fax (55-41) 331-4165

or
• Escritório COPEL/São Paulo
Alameda Santos, 1800 14º andar - conj. 14B
01418-200 - São Paulo - SP, Brazil
Phone (55-11) 289-1431
Fax (55-11) 288-3829

At the time of Bid Documents purchase, all companies present a letter containing name department of the person for contact and complete mailing addresses.

The receipt of the Qualification and Bid Documents is scheduled for March 1st, 1996, at 3.00 P.M., at COPEL's office meeting room, in Curitiba, Rua Voluntários da Pátria 233, ground floor.

The Bidding will be ruled by Law No 8666, dated June 21, 1993, and by other conditions stated herein and in the Bidding Documents.

COMPANHIA PARANAENSE DE ENERGIA

EUROPE

France Vows to Retain Border Controls Despite the Wishes of Its Neighbors

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — Once again frustrating the wishes of several European Union allies to turn the promise of the free movement of people into reality, France announced Wednesday that it would maintain border controls indefinitely in an effort to deter drug trafficking.

Michel Barnier, the French minister for European affairs, told a meeting of the so-called Schengen group of seven Continental EU countries that France needed several more months to determine whether

alternative crime-control measures, such as mobile patrols near border areas, could adequately replace fixed police controls at frontier crossing points.

"When we talk about a Europe of freedom, we also have to talk of a Europe of safety," Mr. Barnier said.

France's partners reacted with resignation rather than indignation.

Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Spain and Portugal have abolished controls on their common borders, believing controls at fixed points offer little deterrent to drug trafficking and other crime. But they acknowledged that the issue is

politically sensitive for Paris because of a series of terrorist attacks over the summer and President Jacques Chirac's strong stance against drug trafficking.

"They understood that we were sincere, that there's no will to block Schengen," Mr. Barnier said at the meeting in Ostend, Belgium.

Many European officials also believe that opposition by the rightist National Front to any easing of border controls has inhibited Mr. Chirac's ability to reach a compromise on the issue.

Belgian officials, who have chaired the Schengen group for the last six months,

reported little progress in border talks with France. Paris has called for joint command of border police with its neighboring countries but still wants the police based at fixed points on the frontier, officials said.

In Brussels, officials said they want the same type of cross-border patrolling that Belgium conducts with the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg.

France allows Belgian police to come onto its territory in hot pursuit of criminals but prohibits them from making an arrest unless accompanied by French police. Belgian officials contend that the brief time it takes to team up with French police is usually

enough to enable criminals to get away.

Prospects for a solution could improve in January when the Netherlands takes over the leadership of the Schengen group. Mr. Chirac's main concern has been drug traffic coming out of the Netherlands, which he asserts is fostered by a lenient drugs policy. The Dutch government tightened its policy in September, limiting the quantity of marijuana and hashish that can be sold in coffee shops and cracking down on drug tourism by expelling foreigners who come to buy hard drugs. And at a summit meeting of EU leaders in Madrid last week, Prime Minister Wim Kok of the Netherlands

lands agreed with Mr. Chirac and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany to hold a special meeting on drug trafficking early in 1996 to launch a concerted crackdown.

Despite the border stalemate, ministers reported progress on other issues. Officials reported that the Schengen Information System, a computerized crime data bank plagued for months by technical problems and procedural disagreements, ran without a hitch for the past month. And officials claimed progress in negotiations aimed at bringing Denmark, Sweden, Finland and non-EU member Norway into the Schengen group.

Chirac Hopes Labor Meeting Can Heal Bitter Strike's Scars

Reuters

PARIS — President Jacques Chirac of France on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Alain Juppé to use a high-risk "labor summit" with unions and employers to restore hope and confidence to the nation after a bitter 24-day public-sector strike.

As Mr. Juppé worked on measures to revive an economy battered by the long transport strike, the government's spokesman, Alain Lamassoure, said Mr. Chirac had encouraged the cabinet to "make new efforts to explain and to bring back confidence and restore hope."

He also quoted Mr. Chirac as saying that the government should listen carefully to what had been said by all sides during the strikes.

Mr. Lamassoure's remarks sounded to some like veiled criticism of Mr. Juppé at a time when the president's conservative supporters are urging him to intervene personally in the labor upheaval.

But Chirac aides stressed that no criticism was intended and that the president stood by his prime minister.

With employers refusing to discuss pay increases or shorter

working hours and trade union leaders seeking to put Mr. Juppé's welfare reforms on the agenda, Thursday's talks at the prime minister's office could end in a blow-up.

Mr. Chirac acknowledged the danger, telling the cabinet that the meeting was "a necessary, if difficult exercise."

In a television interview over the weekend, Mr. Juppé said the talks would focus on youth unemployment, working hours and growth measures. But he refused to discuss social security reform.

In a sign of the government's determination to press ahead with its controversial reforms, the cabinet approved a bill to amend the constitution and give Parliament, instead of trade unions and employers, ultimate control over welfare spending.

The amendment lets Parliament "set, at the government's suggestion, general guidelines and aims for social protection policy, financial resources through taxation and the rate of growth of all spending."

Mr. Lamassoure said the measure aimed to balance the social security accounts that finance health care, pensions and family allowances, which are running an annual deficit of 60 billion francs (\$12 billion).

But Mr. Juppé tried to calm the unions, which draw power and funds from managing the welfare system, saying that they would keep a full role and that he did not aim to "nationalize social security."

Court in Germany Strikes A Blow Against Paparazzi

Reuters

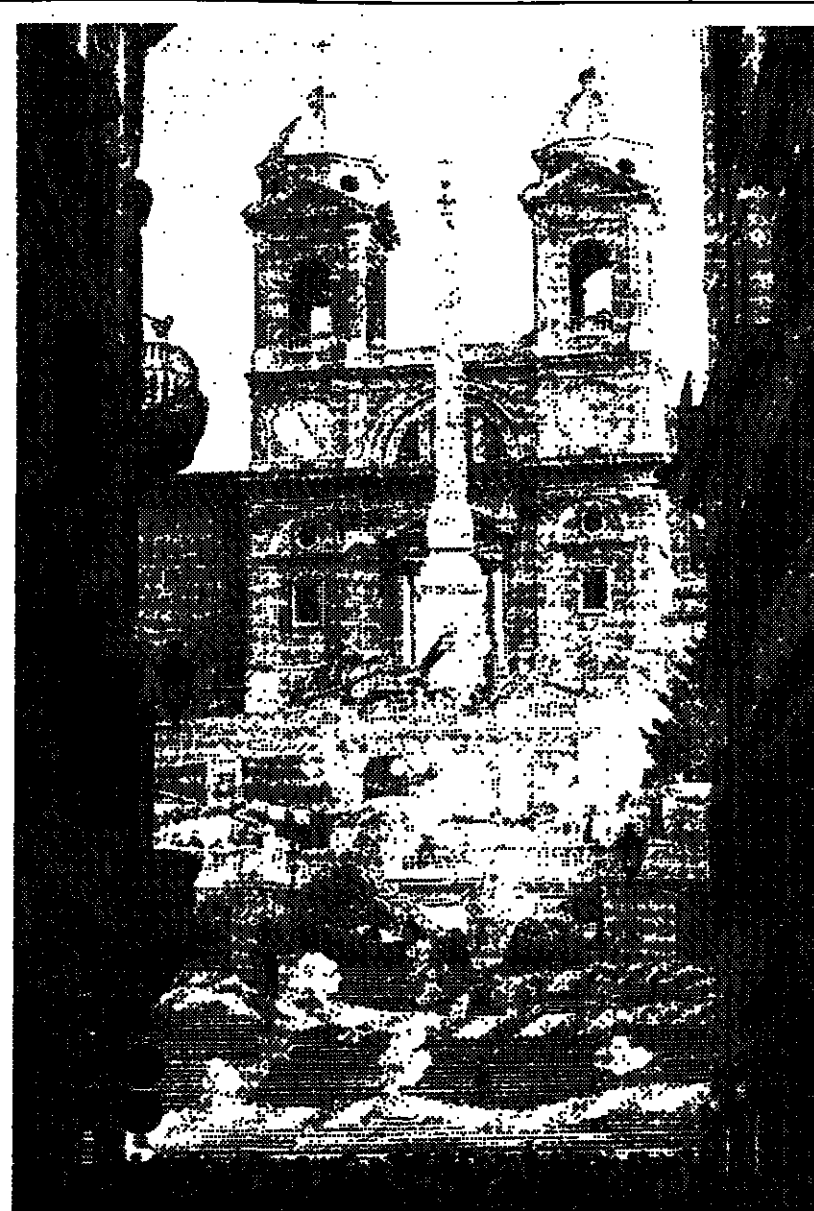
KARLSRUHE, Germany — The nation's highest civil court on Wednesday banned the publication of celebrity photographs if the stars clearly think they are free from prying lenses.

In a case brought by Princess Caroline of Monaco in 1993, the Federal Court of Justice ruled that the Burda publishing house could no longer publish photographs of her and the French actor Vincent Lindon that were taken in a quiet garden restaurant in Saint Rémy in the south of France.

The court described the decision as a milestone in the protection of privacy under German law.

Even celebrities deserved some privacy outside their own homes, it said, and photographers would need their permission to publish a shot taken in a public but closed-off space where stars feel they are not being watched.

At the same time, the court said, the princess had to accept being photographed in such open public spaces as shops or when she goes boating or horse-riding.



STEPPING OUT — Rome on Wednesday reopened its white marble Spanish Steps, which have been closed for seven months for renovation.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

Greece Is Lukewarm To 'Push' on Cyprus

ATHENS — Greece reacted cautiously Wednesday to an American assistant secretary of state's vow that he would make a "big push" in 1996 to end the 21-year division of Cyprus.

Greece's welcome "will depend on the nature" of the U.S. intervention, the government's spokesman, Telemachos Hytiris, said.

He said that "nothing concrete" had been offered so far and that it was "not the first time" that Washington and Richard C. Holbrooke, the assistant secretary for European and Canadian affairs, had said they wanted to move talks forward on solving the division of the island.

Mr. Holbrooke, who helped to broker the Bosnian peace agreement, is to travel to Cyprus next month. On Tuesday, he told The Washington Post: "We intend to make 1996 the year of the big push on Cyprus."

Cyprus has been divided into Greek and Turkish zones since Ankara occupied the northern third of the island in 1974 after a Greece-backed coup in Nicosia. (AFP)

British Researchers Discount Beef Scare

LONDON — Reacting to a scare over "mad cow" disease, British scientists have said there is no health risk involved in eating beef.

Their research, published on Wednesday in the magazine Nature, showed humans were extremely unlikely to contract the degenerative brain disease CJD, or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, through eating beef from cows infected with the disease.

Beef sales in Britain have plummeted by 25 percent in recent weeks amid a wave of concern that people could be infected from beef. Hundreds of schools have taken the meat off their menus after pressure from concerned parents.

But researchers at London's Imperial College School of Medicine, experimenting with mice, found no connection.

The research will be welcomed by the British government, which has been fighting growing public anxiety over the disease's possible spread into the human food chain. (Reuters)

Assassins in Belfast Gun Down Catholic

BELFAST — Assassins struck for the second straight night in Belfast on Tuesday, killing a Roman Catholic man as he walked from his car to his front door.

A caller to Belfast media claimed that an unknown group, "Direct Action Against Drugs," murdered Chris Johnston, 38.

The same group claimed responsibility for Monday's killing of Francis Collins. The police said they believed the Irish Republican Army was responsible for both murders. (AP)

Calendar

EU events scheduled for Thursday:

BRUSSELS: Final day of a conference of donor countries for the reconstruction of Bosnia.

BRUSSELS: Fisheries ministers meet to fix catch quotas for 1996. Sources: Agence Europe, AFP

When I was just a kid, my bike was the freedom to explore.

When I was a teenager, my motorcycle gave me the open road.

And in my 20's, a beat-up convertible was a ticket to heaven.

Now it's my son who is free to dream.

So here I am.

Designed for the Individual



We're all different-different dreams, and different hopes. That's why Mitsubishi offers such a wide and varied range of cars. All share certain values. Like vivid performance. Solid comfort. Genuine utility. And space to stretch out and be yourself. But like all of us, each one is unique. Find the car for the real you. In Mitsubishi's matchless line of leisure and sports vehicles. Cars as different as you.



CREATING TOGETHER

INTERNATIONAL

Andreotti and the 3 Faces of Italy

State, Church and Mafia All Have Roles to Play

By Celestine Bohlen
New York Times Service

ROME — It is said that Italy's curse is to be the home of three world powers: Italy, the Roman Catholic Church and the Mafia, of which the feeblest is the Italian state.

It might also be said that Giulio Andreotti, seven times prime minister and a devout Catholic now on trial for Mafia crimes, is the symbol of the relationships that bind all three.

Now 76, accused in one case of acting as political godfather to the Sicilian Mafia and in another of conspiring to murder a journalist, Mr. Andreotti has been reduced to a shadowy figure flitting across Italian television screens like a soul trapped in purgatory.

But there is one place where he is still welcome, and that is the Vatican. There he is still remembered for his loyal service to the church during his many years as Italy's leading Christian Democrat, an important ally against communism.

And there at a recent public ceremony, he was ushered to the stage by an Italian cardinal, calling for a round of applause, and was given a warm handshake by Pope John Paul II.

Given the gravity of the charges against him, it was a gesture that struck many Italians as ill timed, to say the least. Yes, all men are presumed innocent until proven guilty, but a papal handshake carries special significance, in some ways like a blessing.

"I think it is very serious that another state invites a man accused of two serious crimes to participate in an official setting," said Paolo Giacomelli, head of a consulting company. "It would have been better if the Vatican had waited for the decision of an Italian tribunal."

In this case, the handshake carried an extra symbolic burden. For most Italians, the case against Mr. Andreotti, now before a court in Palermo, Sicily, boils down to another greeting: the now-famous kiss that Mr. Andreotti is said to have exchanged with the notoriously brutal Salvatore Riina, the Cosa Nostra's boss of bosses, now serving multiple life sentences.

But the Pope being the Pope, no one dared challenge him until a 25-year-old student last week walked to a microphone during a papal prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica and in an incident that hit front pages across Italy, boldly questioned the decision to invite Mr. Andreotti to the Vatican.

The student, Maurizio Anastasi, a member of a Catholic university organization, quoted from the diary of Aldo Moro, the former prime minister killed by leftist terrorists in 1978, who described Mr. Andreotti as "indifferent, bloodless, absent, closed in his shadowy scheme of glory."

The student's remarks have prompted a debate about the church's responsibility for a man and his party, which, for all their deeply rooted Catholicism, have been condemned to

political oblivion for condoning corruption and collusion with the Mafia.

Writing in *La Repubblica*, Giorgio Bocca, a well-known columnist, said church leaders "certainly have many reasons to recall with nostalgia the super-Catholic Minister Giulio Andreotti who never begrudged the church help or favors from the state, but perhaps they should keep in mind that the challenge between legal Italy and organized crime is now a crucial point: either legal Italy wins, or it becomes a Mediterranean Colombia."

Even some churchmen voiced regrets over Mr. Andreotti's reception at the Vatican.

"This risked giving the impression that the church has already absolved Andreotti," said the Reverend Paolo Turitto, a well-known anti-Mafia priest in Palermo.

Mr. Andreotti, ever aloof, always armed with a dry wit, dismissed the student's outburst as "the intemperance of youth."

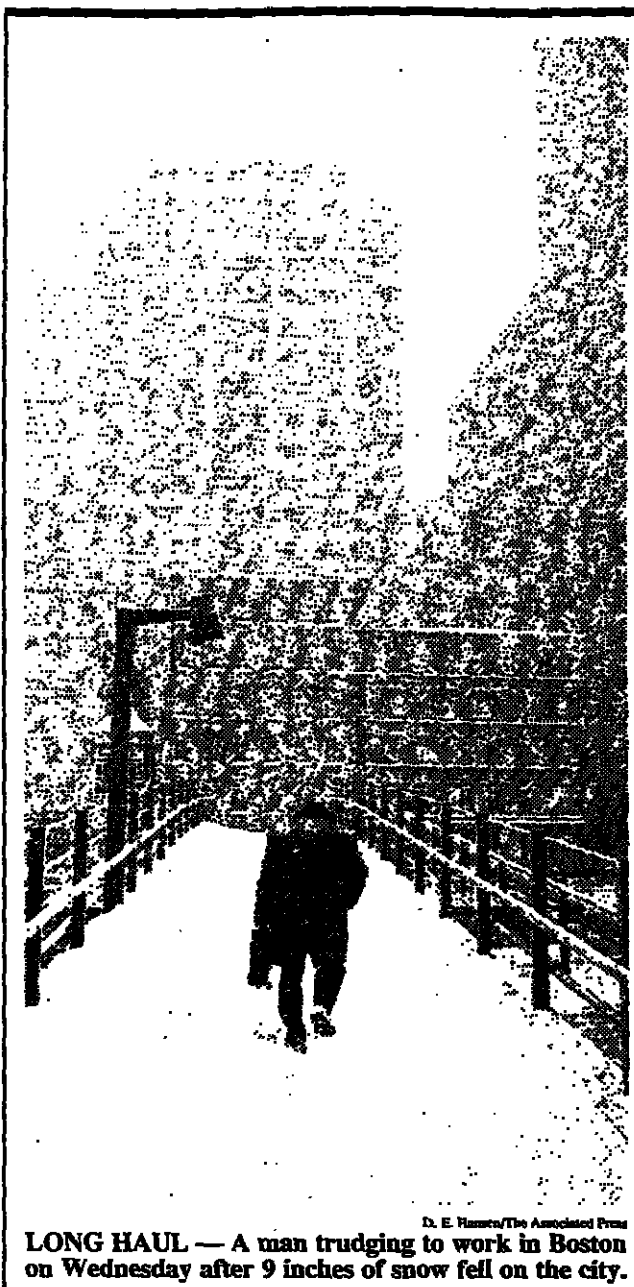
Perhaps this serenity comes from the "ancient Catholic wisdom of the Roman people," as he once described it in an interview. That wisdom, passed to him by an aunt, taught him a few basic axioms: "Never dramatize too much; with time everything rights itself; in life maintain a certain distance from all this; there are few truly important things."

Italian Sleuth Is Accused

Reuters

BRESCIA, Italy — Magistrates have asked that Antonio Di Pietro, Italy's onetime star anti-graft investigator, be committed for trial on corruption charges, judicial sources said Wednesday. They said that magistrates here had recommended that Mr. Di Pietro, a hero for exposing corruption among Italy's old political guard, be tried on charges of extorting bribes and for abuse of office. A senior judge must decide whether to send the case to trial.

Mr. Di Pietro, who resigned from Milan's "clean hands" pool of anti-corruption magistrates a year ago, denies any wrongdoing. Investigations have proceeded for months into allegations that he extracted favors for friends and other purported abuses. Mr. Di Pietro has flirted with entering politics but the latest action appeared to put a brake on such ambitions.



LONG HAUL — A man trudging to work in Boston on Wednesday after 9 inches of snow fell on the city.

The Talk of India: Rao's Racy Novel

Leader's Book Heavy on Sex

By John F. Burns
New York Times Service

NEW DELHI — Since P. V. Narasimha Rao became India's prime minister nearly five years ago, he has been called many things.

Some have described him as visionary, for using a debt crisis in 1991 as the occasion to begin dismantling 45 years of socialism. Others, noting his habitually dour demeanor, have suggested that he has raised dullness to an art.

But nobody, until recently, questioned Mr. Rao's character in quite the manner of a columnist in *The Times of India*, which for much of its 150-year existence has been regarded as an arbiter of official proprieties. The columnist, Soli Sorabjee, a former attorney general and a distinguished legal scholar, did not mince words.

"Is the prime minister a sex maniac?" he said.

In the land of the Kama Sutra, of 1,000-year-old Hindu temples that made eroticism an art, and of raunchy Hindi-language movies that mix thin plot lines with swinging hips, it is safe to say that Indians value sex as much as anyone.

But Mr. Rao, 74, a widower, a survivor of a triple-bypass heart operation, and so skilled in deferring tough decisions that admirers describe his political style as "masterly inactivity," has hardly seemed like anybody's Lothario.

Nevertheless, in recent weeks, after 20 years of writing in secret, Mr. Rao allowed a draft of an uncompleted novel to reach two Indian weekly magazines. Without protest from Mr. Rao, the magazines published sections of the novel, tentatively titled "The Other Half," along with some of the sexual episodes that punctuate the plot.

In the resulting free-for-all among literati, politicians and self-appointed guardians of India's moral ethos, a country that usually takes its politicians with numbing earnestness has had an unusual amount of fun.

One magazine, *Frontline*, concentrated on the politics in the novel. The manuscript and its protagonist, Niranjan, a thinly disguised alter ego for Mr. Rao, depict much of Indian politics as shameless hypocrisy.

But it was the sex in the excerpts published by the other magazine, *Outlook*, that set the country abuzz, particularly passages that depict widespread licentiousness among politicians. The narrative says of the generation who took part in India's struggle for independence that they preached self-denial, like Mohandas K. Gandhi, the independence leader, but practiced self-indulgence.

"Many had — or thought they had — hoodwinked Gandhi by wearing short loin-cloths," the novel says, while in reality having sex with "any woman who came their way."

But it is in the character of Niranjan that many Indians believe that Mr. Rao has come closest to describing himself. A Congress Party politician who has made his early career in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, like Mr. Rao, Niranjan is described in his first intimate encounter with a woman named Sumitra.

"He lay with his head on her lap while she combed through his smooth hair with her fingers and kissed him on the forehead," the novel says. "Then they exchanged places and she rested her head on his chest."

And the silted narrative goes on: "Their bodies, like strangers meeting for the first time, introduced themselves to each other."

With a general election looming in the spring and the Congress Party slumping in the polls, Mr. Rao's associates hope that the novel, by showing a more open side of the Indian leader, will give the party a bounce.

But Khushwant Singh, a popular writer, said Mr. Rao made a mistake by exposing his literary skills to public mockery.

"My advice to him would be to stick to his other job," he said.

Austrian Rightist Is Attacked for Praising Hitler's Waffen SS

Reuters

VIENNA — The far-right leader Joerg Haider came under fierce attack Wednesday for praising Hitler's Waffen SS and saying its officers deserved honor and respect.

The leader of the Austrian Freedom Party said in a television interview broadcast late Tuesday that he did not know the postwar Nuremberg war crimes tribunal had branded the Waffen SS a criminal organization, adding: "It doesn't interest me in the least."

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky criticized Mr. Haider, accusing him of

historical ignorance and political incompetence.

"It should be clear to every single person now that Haider is not qualified to participate in government," he said.

The veteran Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal told the news agency APA: "The Waffen SS was a murder brigade."

He said he believed that Mr. Haider was attempting to mislead his supporters with his subsequent comments.

In a general election Sunday, the Freedom Party won 22 percent of the

vote, about a million voters. It is Austria's third largest political party.

The interview followed a screening of an amateur video on Austrian state television that showed Mr. Haider praising a gathering in September that included former Waffen SS officers.

The video showed Mr. Haider calling the crowd "decent people of good character" and applauding them for "sticking to their convictions despite the greatest opposition."

"The Waffen SS was a part of the Wehrmacht and hence it deserves all the honor and respect of the army in

public life," Mr. Haider said in a television interview.

A historian, Gustav Spann, said in a radio interview that the Waffen SS was not part of the Wehrmacht, but had been "significantly involved in mass exterminations, gassing Jews, and ethnic cleansing."

Mr. Haider's comments sparked outrage among Austrian politicians across the board.

But Mr. Haider said: "I participated in this event and I don't see any reason not to. While I reject National Socialism, I certainly do not approve of

the wholesale disparagement of the older war generation. I stand by this generation, and I fight against the way it is disparaged."

Vranitzky Gets the Nod

President Thomas Klestil on Wednesday asked Mr. Vranitzky to form a new government after his party's victory in elections three days ago, Reuters reported from Vienna.

His coalition with the People's Party resigned Tuesday but agreed to stay on as caretaker until a new government takes over.

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INTERNATIONAL

How Will Oman Navigate a Future With No Oil?

By John Lancaster
Washington Post Service

MUSCAT, Oman — A couple of years ago, the story goes, the sultan of Oman was cruising down the highway here when something offended the royal eye. It was a new McDonald's, complete with soaring golden arches. Big Macs were one thing, but the arches had to go. They were too big.

Out went the royal decree, and down came the arches. Such are the joys of absolute power.

Oman is one of those places that is invariably described as "oil rich." The problem is that Oman will not be oil-rich much longer.

Unlike, say, Saudi Arabia or Kuwait, where the oil could last for two more centuries, Oman's known oil reserves will run dry in as few as 17 years. That, in turn, casts a cloud of political uncertainty over one of America's steady allies in the Middle East.

The warning signs are already accumulating: surging birthrates; budget troubles linked to flat or falling oil prices; succession worries, and, last year, the first stirrings of domestic discord, evident in the jailing of 130 Omanis, including high-ranking officials, accused of plotting against the government.

They have since been released, but the symptoms have echoes in other Gulf monarchies, including Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, which, like Oman, maintain close diplomatic and military ties to the United States.

The question now is whether

Oman's ruler, Sultan Qaboos ibn Said, can navigate his country through times of want as shrewdly as he did through times of plenty.

For all the challenges confronting Oman, Sultan Qaboos remains immensely popular in this starkly beautiful country of 2 million people. Many here remember what Oman was like in 1970,

'I am just 36, and when I was 10 years old, we were using candles inside Muscat. I remember all that.'

when the Sandhurst-educated monarch, now 55, overthrew his father with the help of British advisers.

Sultan Qaboos's father had done his best to keep the outside world at bay. At the time of his ouster, Oman was an isolated backwater with three primary schools and 10 miles of paved roads. Omanis who sought education abroad were barred from returning. Slavery was not uncommon. The capital's gates were locked each night at sunset. Even bicycles were banned.

The younger Sultan Qaboos quickly changed all that and, after 25 years of oil-financed development, Oman has largely caught up with its wealthy neighbors. There are new highways, free schooling for all and 157 hospitals and clinics, compared with two in 1970.

The transformation is most evident in Muscat, the capital, where palm-lined boulevards are swept each morning by armies of Indian workers. At night, floodlights illuminate artificial waterfalls tumbling from a rocky outcrop near

the 16th-century Portuguese fort of Mirani, which overlooks the tidy harbor.

"We consider him Superman because before, there was nothing," said an Omani journalist, downing Heineken and tortilla chips at a Mexican restaurant where a Polish rock band provided the entertainment. "I am just 36, and when I was 10 years old, we were using candles

inside Muscat. I remember all that."

Sultan Qaboos matched his development efforts with new social policies. During his father's time, for example, women were not permitted to go to school. Today, they serve in the police force and hold senior posts in government and business.

"I have met all seven leaders of the Arabian Peninsula and I would say that one-on-one Sultan Qaboos is the most interesting and the most intellectual," said a Western diplomat of long experience in the region.

Although Sultan Qaboos appears somber and formal in public, rarely cracking a smile, he has a degree of accessibility that would be unthinkable almost anywhere else.

He prefers to drive himself, sometimes making late-night tours of the capital in his BMW, alone and unescorted by bodyguards. Every year he drives through the country's interior, camping in the desert and inviting any and all to share their grievances with him.

The sagging oil economy, however, has raised questions about Sultan Qaboos's rule.

Despite flat oil prices over the last decade, his government has continued to spend lavishly, providing citizens with free education and health care and maintaining one of the world's highest rates of military spending.

The country's birthrate, meanwhile, is among the highest in the world. With more than half of Omanis under the age of 15, unemployment looms as a potentially explosive problem.

The World Bank warned in a strongly worded report last year that the government had better learn to live within its means — or else.

It cited, among other things, persistent budget deficits, rising foreign debt and a "pronounced overall decline in saving and investment." It likened the country's oil wealth to "a large inheritance" that was in danger of being squandered.

Adding to such anxieties are questions about who will run the country after Sultan Qaboos. Because he is so closely identified with Oman's progress over the last 25 years, public confidence in its future rides largely on his shoulders.

That confidence was badly shaken in September when Sultan Qaboos narrowly escaped death in an auto accident that killed his top financial adviser.

The accident reminded Omanis that their unmarried sultan has produced no heir and that the country has no formal mechanism for the transference of power.



ENOUGH SOCIALIST REALISM — Workers removing a piece of Socialist art Wednesday from a congress center in eastern Berlin. It goes to the Historical Museum.

Swedes Confirm Invasions by Minks

Reuters

STOCKHOLM — Sweden produced evidence on Wednesday that foreign submarines violated its waters on several occasions in the 1980s and early 1990s, but admitted that some intruders were actually minks.

Supporting a report with slides, films and sound recordings, a government commission vindicated claims that foreign submarines had violated Swedish territorial waters over the past 15 years.

But the commission stopped short of pointing the finger at any one nation, saying evidence uncovered did not justify any definite statements regarding nationality.

The commission was set up after defense chiefs admitted underwater objects originally identified as foreign submarines could have been minks diving for fish.

The panel admitted that navy sonar had on a number of occasions classified minks as underwater vessels. But it said these incidents were few compared to the total number of intrusions.

Sweden in the past accused the former Soviet Union of sending submarines into its coastal waters and pursued a much-publicized but unsuccessful naval hunt for alleged

intruders throughout the 1980s.

In 1981 it protested formally after a Soviet submarine ran aground near a top secret naval base in southeastern Sweden. Moscow blamed a navigational error, but the commission said the submarine had intentionally entered Swedish waters and had carried nuclear weapons.

The panel also said there was no doubt that the foreign powers violating Swedish waters wanted to damage Swedish coastal defense systems.

In the mid-1980s, it said, a mined area off the coast of northern Sweden had been tampered with and damaged.

An investigation showed that electric equipment "at great depth" had been damaged after repeated blows with a hard object.

"The nature of the damage and the depth at which the objects were lying demonstrates that damage was planned and carried out against the Swedish defenses," the panel said.

The commission used the latest analytical technology to review all the data available since the early 1980s.

Between 1981 and 1994, more than 6,000 individual reports of suspected or verified alien underwater activity had been registered, the panel said.

In Russia, It's No Longer Treason to Stay Abroad

Reuters

MOSCOW — Russia's Constitutional Court, scrapping a legal relic of Soviet times, ruled Wednesday that citizens could no longer be charged with high treason for leaving the country illegally or failing to return.

The court formally ended the practice under which thousands of people faced execution or long terms of imprisonment for going abroad without permission.

"The Russian Constitution provides for the right to freely leave the territory of the Russian Federation and return to the motherland without any obstruction," the court ruled.

"This means that criminal prosecution cannot be launched in such cases."

Russia's criminal code, although widely amended since the collapse of communism, still considers illegal foreign travel or refusing to return as equivalent to high treason.

50 Journalists Killed, 22 in Algeria, in 1995

Compiled by Our Staff from Dispatches

PARIS — At least 50 journalists were killed this year while doing their jobs or for expressing their opinions, and another 20 deaths are being investigated, the watchdog group Reporters Without Borders said Wednesday.

Africa was the most dangerous continent, with 28 deaths.

Of those, 22 were in Algeria alone, bringing to 49 the number killed there over a chase by past three years "in attacks blamed on armed Islamic groups," the group said.

It said in cases where no one has been charged in the killings, "impunity is not only a denial of justice, it is also a real encouragement to the killers of tomorrow."

The organization said it was investigating the causes of the deaths this year of 20 other journalists, mainly in Russia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In Algeria, meanwhile, a bomb planted in a café exploded on Wednesday in the center of the town of Mostaganem, wounding 23 people, the Algerian news agency APS said.

The blast, in the coastal town 280 kilometers (175 miles) from Algiers, caused extensive damage and was the second bomb explosion reported in Algeria in 24 hours.

Early Tuesday, a car bomb blew up during a chase by security forces in Tizi-Ouzou, 90 kilometers east of Algiers, killing two Muslim fundamentalists inside the vehicle and wounding 42 people, the security forces said.

Wednesday's blast occurred as the country's main Arabic newspaper said that the presidency was gearing up to open talks with opposition parties to shape Algeria's political map through parliamentary elections next year. (AFP, Reuters)

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THE FACTS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

In recent weeks the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which has been conducting a campaign of terror in Sri Lanka for over 12 years, has suffered several major defeats. Domestically its oppressive grip on Jaffna has been broken and the myth of LTTE invincibility has been shattered. Abroad the LTTE's active involvement in the promotion of international terrorism, narcotics trafficking, trade in illicit arms, the smuggling of illegal immigrants and money laundering is being investigated in several western capitals.

In the wake of these defeats, LTTE front organisations have begun to disseminate falsehoods in order to divert attention, arouse sympathy and to raise funds for the depleting war-chests of the LTTE. To deal with some of these false claims and to help clarify the situation, we present the following comments made by respected independent sources and the President of Sri Lanka.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES

"I think international reaction to the LTTE breakdown of the negotiations was explicit and must have given an unmistakable message to the LTTE leadership and to the Tamil community in the north and indeed overseas Tamils who perhaps are a little romantically inclined when it comes to supporting some of the excesses of the LTTE. I think the message should have been very usefully given, that this sort of behaviour must expect to get a very sharp international reaction. They can't expect to have any kind of international support, when they obviously sit on a so potentially viable peace process."

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, to the international press in Colombo, 22 May 1995.

"Prabhakaran and his colleagues will have to bear the responsibility for the resulting casualties, especially of the civilians. Though the Sri Lanka Army would do well to show restraint, the government cannot afford to yield to the demands for Eelam. In that respect they are fighting a war not only for the integrity of Sri Lanka but to uphold the principle of territorial integrity of all multi-cultural, multi-ethnic nations."

Editorial in the Kathmandu Post (Nepal), 30 November 1995

INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION OF THE LTTE

"Mr. Prabhakaran has established a rule of terror in the city of Jaffna...many of his own lieutenants have been murdered; Tamils who have criticised him, even idly or in jest have been picked up, tortured, and executed; others have been held in dungeons, half-starved, hauled out periodically for a battering by the guards... He (Prabhakaran) has shown a bloodthirstiness in dealing with opponents that has compared with some of the cruellest figures in Asian history, including Pol Pot of Cambodia."

New York Times, 28 May 1995

"We condemn the recent brutal massacres of civilians which have taken place, especially those in the North and East of Sri Lanka. These outrages bear all the hallmarks of operations carried out by the LTTE and deserve the condemnation of the entire international community."

Statement by UK Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Jeremy Hanley, 6 November 1995

THE UN REACTION TO THE SRI LANKA SITUATION

"Let me first say very firmly that the Secretary General has never questioned what the Sri Lanka Government had been, or was doing, on the humanitarian front. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs continued to follow the situation in Sri Lanka very closely and was maintaining contact with the Sri Lankan authorities regarding the humanitarian needs in that country. The Government had assured that it was able and willing to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance for the affected population within the conflict areas. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was in the area, playing a key role in ensuring humanitarian assistance. The United Nations resident coordinator, who headed the local emergency task force, was in contact with the newly designated focal point for relief assistance established by the Government. The United Nations was following the situation."

Spokesman of the UN Secretary General, 9 November 1995

THE CONDUCT OF THE SECURITY FORCES IN THE RECENT OPERATIONS

"Our young men have not only braved all the dangers in the defence of their motherland and shed their blood but they have also acted as civilised, well disciplined, religious human beings and not in the fashion of conquering armies looting houses, stealing goods, raping the defenceless and killing innocent civilians."

Rt. Rev Dr. Nicholas Marcus Fernando, Archbishop of Colombo, in a message on 3 December 1995

HUMAN RIGHTS

"The Foreign Minister and I will be talking about, among other things, the great progress they've made in Sri Lanka in the field of human rights, which you can see from our human rights report this year, is one of the happy stories."

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher welcoming Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar at the State Department, 2 February 1995

"The Commission condemns abuses of human rights by the LTTE and strongly urges it to desist from such acts... The Commission expresses its support for the peace process initiated by the President of Sri Lanka and strongly urges the LTTE to respond positively and speedily to the steps taken by the Government and to take all necessary steps towards the achievement of a durable political solution."

Chairman, UN Commission on Human Rights (Geneva), 7 March 1995

"Commends the Sri Lankan people and the Government of Sri Lanka for the significant improvements in Sri Lanka in the area of human rights...applauds the commitment to democracy demonstrated by the Sri Lankan people, in defiance of brutal acts of wanton terrorism...calls on the LTTE to desist in its resort to arms, and to return to the negotiating table."

from the Resolution passed by the US House of Representatives on 18 September 1995

CONSCRIPTION OF CHILDREN

"The LTTE recruits boys and girls from the age of 10 upwards. Their dependence on child combatants is increasing rapidly."

Statement to the press by UNICEF Representatives in Sri Lanka, Ms Brita Ostberg, 11 December 1995

CRACKDOWN ON THE LTTE'S ACTIVITIES ABROAD

"A suspected leader and Canadian fund raiser for the terrorist Tamil Tigers has been arrested on terrorist related charges. The funds were transferred to Sri Lanka for use by the group to purchase weapons and equipment in their fight against the government."

Toronto Star (Canada), 20 October 1995

"Calls on European Union member states to monitor the LTTE offices operating on the territory of the EU and to ensure that their agents respect the law and take no part in terrorist or intimidatory activities."

from Resolution adopted unanimously by the European Parliament on 16 November 1995

DISPLACEMENT OF CIVILIANS FROM JAFFNA

"Jaffna is a ghost town. Most of the 250,000 inhabitants have left. Some have doubtless gone in fear of the advancing army. But the majority were ordered out by the Tigers."

The Economist (UK) 18 November 1995

"Tamil refugees reaching government controlled areas have confirmed earlier government assertions that the rebels forced them at gun point from their homes in Jaffna."

New York Times, 6 December 1995

PROVISION OF FOOD AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS TO THE DISPLACED

"Sri Lanka presents the unusual situation of a central government providing relief aid to persons under control of opposition groups. In a world replete with examples of Governments and rebel groups using food as a weapon against civilians the situation in Sri Lanka is one that deserves closer attention if not more publicity as an important precedent."

Dr. Francis Deng, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on internally displaced persons in his 1994 report to the UN Commission on Human Rights

"The Government (Sri Lanka) appears to have done a commendable job feeding and sheltering them (the internally displaced), avoiding what would become a human catastrophe."

Times (London), 4 December 1995

TOWARDS A LASTING PEACE IN SRI LANKA

"The unravelling of the devolution proposals makes clear the effort of the Sri Lankan Government to distinguish between the obligation to respond sincerely to the long standing problems of the Tamil minority and the necessity to deal sharply with the LTTE's dangerous and fascist brand of terrorism. Sri Lanka's Government has shown a pioneering and courageous approach to conflict resolution which should serve as a model for the entire South Asian region."

Editorial in the Hindu (India), 4 August 1995

"We transformed our peace programme into a battle for peace only in order to defeat attacks against peace. At this moment of our victory let us not crow over military victories. I request my people of the Sinhala community today to continue steadfastly to show the same patience and humaneness you have so well demonstrated in the face of all provocation by extremists on both sides of the divide. I ask my people belonging to the Tamil community to continue to recognise that our government is ready to implement programmes to resolve your problems. Although some of you may have agreed to accept the authority of a terrorist regime as you may have had no alternative previously, today you have been offered the supreme opportunity to free yourself from the bondage of intolerance and terror perpetrated by the extremists on both sides. You do not need to continue any more the sacrifices you made with the blood and lives of your children...I invite all those who left Jaffna to return to their homes and lands and live normal lives in peace and security. My government undertakes to ensure you that. I invite all members of the LTTE to lay down arms and renounce violence. The government will offer you an amnesty and your safety."

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga on 6 December 1995

in an address to the nation after the liberation of Jaffna

The above comments make it clear that it is the LTTE and its sympathisers who continue to be the obstacle to peace in Sri Lanka. No right thinking person should therefore make any contribution to LTTE front organisations which describe themselves as rehabilitation bodies or Tamil foundations. Those interested in making financial contributions to the humanitarian effort to help displaced persons in the north of Sri Lanka should send such contributions to internationally recognised and respected organisations — the ICRC, OXFAM, Save the Children Fund, UNHCR amongst others — who are presently assisting the government of Sri Lanka in its humanitarian relief programme.

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OPINION/LETTERS

Unlike America, Europe Hasn't Mugged Its Cities

By Neal R. Peirce

STUTTGART—By the tens of thousands, from late morning to the icy darkness of the early winter nights, Germans have been flocking this month into the center city blocks of Stuttgart, visiting the 250 elaborate stalls set up for Europe's biggest and perhaps grandest Christmas festival.

For the children there are puppet shows, wooden toys, candies and gingerbread houses, miniature steam train rides and vivid images of Christmas light and cheer.

Adults in search of gifts can find delightfully inventive carved figures, jewelry and pottery, beeswax candles, painted and stained glass.

Wurst and heated waffles, biscuits and stollen are all on hand. A delicious fragrance of spiced glühwein floats through the air, quaff a cup and your chills quickly flee. A shared Christmas spirit seems to pervade the crowds.

Stuttgart is not alone: Vienna has reinvented its Advent market, a tradition traceable to 1298. Salzburg, Innsbruck, Nuremberg, Munich, Heidelberg, Strasbourg all offer lively Christmas festivals, too.

And for Americans, there's an added wonder: These lively markets aren't just once-a-year revivals in the core of half-deserted cities. Far from it, the department stores, the shops, the center city restaurants and coffeehouses throb with activity all year long.

But as my journalist colleague Alex Marshall reported, in a *Metropolis* magazine article entitled "Euro-Sprawl," compact downtowns, public squares and fountains aren't all there is to the Continent's urban life.

Vast numbers of middle-class Europeans, Mr. Marshall says, have moved out to secluded subdivisions, shopping in ugly malls surrounded by endless stretches of parking lots, driving on traffic-clogged freeways.

Yet even if city-loving Europeans have begun to emulate Americans' search for automobile and a yard to call one's own, they haven't committed the almost unpardonable sin of American metropolises—letting big chunks of the center cities and older neighborhoods sink into decay.

Instead, virtually every European city has preserved, rebuilt and continued to invest, invest, invest.

A critical reason why the Continent's wondrous Christmas markets are even possible is the immense premium placed on public transportation. Parking in or near downtown Stuttgart, for example, is prohibitively expensive.

Yet there's a remarkable and growing array of trolley lines, newly operating underground in center city as well as connecting aboveground with neighborhoods both close-in and on the periphery of the region.

Since the 1960s, when they saw how private automobiles could engulf and pollute their treasured cities, Europeans have been fighting hard to reclaim public space by enhancing mass transit, bicycling and walking.

Some European innovations—large vehicle-free pedestrian zones in center cities—have not and likely would not work in most American metropolises.

But a delegation of U.S. transit officials, visiting Europe this year, discovered not just massive investments in transit but system innovations that might serve America well.

Zurich, for example, has 43 public and private transit operators providing a total of 262 commuter rail, light rail, bus and trolleybus lines, paddle-wheel lake steamers, mountain rail and cable car lines.

The goal, reports the newsletter *Urban Innovation Abroad*, is a transit stop within 300 meters—1,000 feet—of every doorstep.

To coordinate it all, Zurich—like Munich, Frankfurt, Bern and other European cities—has a regional transportation association. Fare integration among the operators is facilitated by use of pre-purchased smart cards, so customers don't have to make cash payments trip by trip.

Another growing idea: coordinated, dynamically scheduled nighttime taxi service that meets transit riders at suburban stops and takes them (at subsidized rates) directly to their homes.

In Salzburg, where public transit, biking and walking account for a phenomenal 63 percent of all trips, the private radio taxi association picked up nearly 50,000 nighttime passengers last year. Such service, reports the *Urban Mobility Corp.*, could benefit many American cities where fear of crime discourages many potential nighttime riders.

High technology and aesthetics help, too. Strasbourg has a fleet of futuristic low-floor

tram cars but has also worked to make the trip visually pleasant by planting more than 1,000 full-sized trees and encouraging striking images by artists along the tram route.

Strasbourg also offers a rental bike fleet and electrical cars downtown. "Public automobiles," for rent by the hour by visitors or residents with short daytime trips to make, started in Switzerland and Scandinavia. The service has now spread to Germany, Austria and France. In place of everyone's parking car on city streets, "public autos" represent an intriguing future alternative.

The lesson seems to be that big-time investment and latest technologies—but also aesthetics and ingenuity—must be melded into the formulas for cities that work for people.

The Europeans seem intent on preserving and rebuilding a public order of shared transportation and shared streets and plazas. Americans, with their private cars, socially stratified malls and gated communities, seem to be racing in the other direction toward faceless suburbia.

A wondrous shared experience like Stuttgart's Christmas festival is a bittersweet reminder of how much Americans are missing.

Washington Post Writers Group.

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A Shrinking Space for Psychoanalysis

By Richard A. Shweder

STANFORD, California—There is a panic inherent in the anticipation of professional extinction that is the dread of Freud's disciples these days.

The announcement by the U.S. Library of Congress that it would shelve an exhibition titled "Sigmund Freud: Conflict and Culture" coincided with the winter meeting of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis, prophetically titled "Is There a Place for Psychoanalysis in Contemporary Culture?"—thereby confirming the fear of many psychoanalysts that the answer may be "no."

The library's halfhearted decision to put the great guns in cold storage left some analysts in a sweat, feeling defensive, unloved and full of self-doubt about their prospects in the intellectual

MEANWHILE

and economic marketplace. The delay is probably less important than it seems. The authority of curators to be unchallenged arbiters of taste has evaporated over the past decade.

In this age of "identity politics" and hotly contested points of view, the very idea of "public culture" has become an oxymoron.

And one does not need a degree in economics to figure out that if exhibitors cannot be highly selective, discerning and partial, then any display or narration about a controversial subject is probably going to be too expensive to mount. The library was just spineless and poor.

The declining mental health of America's psychoanalysts, however, is a real matter for concern. Is there a place for psychoanalysis in contemporary culture? What should we tell them to do about their dread?

For starters, let's not deny their reality. Freud has many intellectual enemies. And they are far more numerous and varied than the 42 critics—including Gloria Steinem and Oliver Sacks—who

signed a petition urging the Library of Congress to shelve the Viennese doctor with venom rather than just glory.

Here is the short version of the enemies list: Sociobiologists don't like Freud because they think family members have no sexual interest in one another. Cognitive scientists don't like Freud because they think the "unconscious mind" is a rapidly firing network of widely distributed neurons, with no mind of its own. Behavioral geneticists don't like Freud because they really think that biology is destiny and that early childhood experience has very little to do with your life.

Postmodernists don't like Freud because they think that interpretation is merely free association, while Freud believed that by studying free association he might uncover the true meaning of a "text."

Feminists don't like Freud because they think he discounted reports of sexual abuse, disparaged the female body and collaborated with his buddies against his female clients. They think Freud was a patriarch.

Even academic psychologists and philosophers of science don't like Freud. The academic psychologists think that the study of the mind has nothing to do with sex, religion, literature, mythology or the history of civilizations, while Freud, bless his heart, made those topics the core of his curriculum.

And the philosophers of science come in two kinds: those who think Freud's tenets are untestable and hence unworthy of scientific consideration, and those who think his tenets are testable and have been shown to be false. So the rap on Freud is not very good.

The word is out in the medical world. It takes too long to "know thyself." Increments of personal insight are hard to measure or reimburse. Moreover, med-

ical interns get nervous when they have to speak to their patients.

They know all too little about the body and even less about a broken heart, or the history of civilization, which is why we need Prozac.

Freud once wrote: "However philosophy may bridge the gap between physical and mental, it still exists for practical purposes, and our practice on each side of it must differ accordingly."

Freud may have underestimated our practicality and overestimated our sense of purpose, but he was right to worry that the marriage of psychoanalysis to medicine would one day end in disaster.

He might even have been pleased to discover that in contemporary American

Freud would be feeling defensive and unloved.

culture, the major interest in psychoanalysis is found in schools of theology and on Broadway. Psychoanalysis has a popular appeal, not because it is a form of medicine or alternative therapy but because it is a secular religion that tries to address the deeper meanings of life.

This is a time for psychoanalysis to discover its true identity. It is time for a divorce from medicine. It is time for a remarriage with theologians.

Freud taught that to be happy one must maximize pleasure (the id), be moral (the superego) and survive (the ego). I am not worried about the survival of psychoanalysts. I think their fears of extinction are largely irrational. I just hope they have the guts to do the right thing.

The writer, a professor of human development at the University of Chicago, is currently a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. He contributed this comment to *The New York Times*.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nigerian Prisoner

The hangings in Nigeria of the human rights activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight associates have provided a sad reminder of the brutality of General Sani Abacha's regime. Terrible as these events were, however, they are not the only ones that stigmatize the military regime.

This past July 27, Dr. Beko Ransome-Kuti, a Nigerian physician and human rights activist, was arrested for denouncing the secret trials of 43 people accused of plotting a coup against the Nigerian regime. In a letter published in *This Day* magazine, Dr. Ransome-Kuti declared that the coup plot had been fabricated by the Nigerian regime and asked for the release of the alleged coup organizers.

Dr. Ransome-Kuti was secretly tried by the Special Military Tribunal and sentenced to life imprisonment. That sentence could not be appealed in an ordinary court because a 1987 military decree established that ordinary courts cannot challenge or review any verdict made by the military tribunal.

Although Nigeria's information minister announced in October that Dr. Ransome-Kuti's sentence had been reduced to 15 years in prison, the regime's record leads one to believe that Dr. Ransome-Kuti is being tortured or ill treated. Many other political prisoners are held in similar harsh circumstances.

Dr. Ransome-Kuti has had a distinguished career as a human rights advocate in Nigeria, and on several occasions he was imprisoned for his activities concerning human rights issues. He was a secretary of the Nigerian Medical Association and he is presently a member of the Commonwealth Medical Association Human Rights Initiative.

CESAR CHELALA,
New York.

EU Expansion

Regarding "Timetable for Expanding EU Is Halted" (11/18):

I believe the article somewhat misinterprets the aims of various countries vis-à-vis the enlargement of the European

Union when it states that Helmut Kohl rebuffed the efforts of some countries to ensure that the Baltic states would start negotiations at the same time as the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

In fact, the outcome of the Madrid summit meeting is exactly what we in Estonia wanted to see: a commitment by the EU to commence negotiations with all those countries that are deemed ready as early as January 1998.

We have always stated that we believe in accession by merit—and this is exactly what we see implied in the requirement that advice be submitted on the readiness of each individual applicant country.

A European Union enlargement, whether it commences southward from Finland or eastward from Germany, or in both directions at the same time, can be successful only if it proceeds from a careful assessment of the financial implications of each new accession.

Were it not to do so, and were decisions based on the narrow political interests of one or several member states, the EU would stand to lose. Therefore, we welcome the results of the Madrid meeting as a significant step in the right direction.

CLYDE KULL,
Brussels.

The writer is ambassador and head of mission of the Republic of Estonia to the European Union.

Taiwan Identity

Regarding "Listen to Democratic Taiwan. Noisy and Distinct" (Opinion, Nov. 29):

I am a 22-year-old classical pianist, currently living in Geneva pursuing my musical career. Born in Taiwan, I have since birth carried the dark green passport that still holds the title "The Republic of China" on its cover. Having lived in and traveled through several countries for my musical development, I have encountered numerous problems as a result of this passport.

On the diplomatic level, I am often limited when trying to get visas to countries that have no relations with Taiwan. There

just seem to be pages and pages of restrictions for Taiwanese visitors. Whenever I mention my nationality, I often receive cold or indifferent responses.

On the social level, I encounter even bigger problems. I struggle to fight for an identity that only vaguely exists in people's minds.

When I am asked about my origin, I say, "Taiwan." "Thailand?" "No, Taiwan." "Where is that? Oh yes, you are Chinese." "No, Taiwanese! It is different now," I reply.

I am not screaming for the independence of Taiwan, only its recognition.

JENNY LIN,
Geneva.

No-Strings Force

Western Europe's tiptoeing around the Bosnian mess plus America's recent, hesitant immersion illustrates the world's need but understandable reluctance to resolve conflicts. This does not imply that conflicts should be allowed to take their bloody course. A means is needed to defuse them.

The United Nations was meant to solve such initially small conflicts before they expanded into worldwide configurations. But today, Western powers will not expend their blood without an obvious and compelling national reason. Well-paid UN troops would for monetary, altruistic and/or merely bloodthirsty reasons try to resolve the world's small (initially, that is) conflicts.

If the major powers—i.e., the United States—were willing to devote a tenth of the money they now spend on their militaries, they could resolve many of the world's conflicts, as well as save lives of their own. How many lives could have been saved if the world had taken an early, united stand against Hitler?

To be truly effective, such soldiers would have to be fully UN soldiers, with no strings attached. With such a force, we could create the world that the UN's founders pictured. Instead, we keep flirting with the type of scenarios that ignited World Wars I and II.

GERALD C. HARDY,
Manchester, Connecticut.

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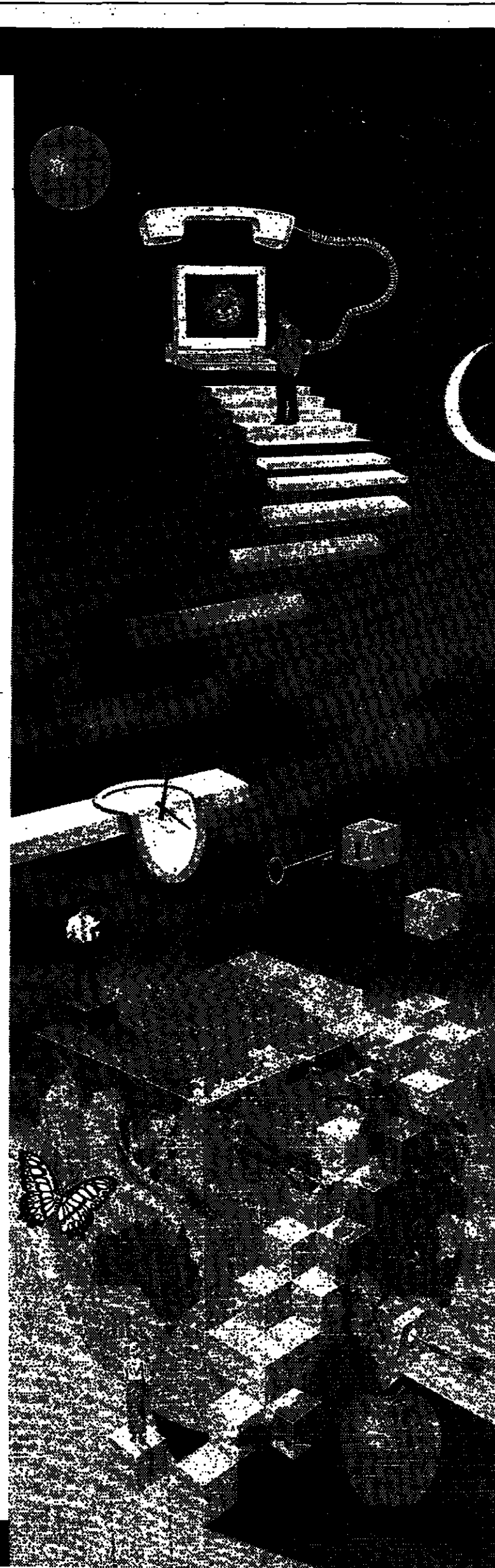
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INTERNATIONAL

Tuzla's Viceroy: A General Who Started as an Army Private

By Rick Atkinson
Washington Post Service

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — There were no brass bands, no welcoming committees, no television lights. The midnight arrival of Major General William L. Nash as the new military viceroy of eastern Bosnia was low key almost to the point of invisibility: The U.S. Army commander strapped on his helmet, strode down the rear ramp of a C-130 airplane and went to work.

Abrupt and unceremonious, the arrival Monday was vintage Nash. A 32-year veteran, the two-star general evinces a gruff, cigar-puffing informality that belies both an impish sense of humor and a shrewd intelligence. After two years of studying math and chemistry at Tulane University, he enlisted in the army as a private in 1963, later secured an appointment to West Point,

and graduated 30th in a class of more than 700.

Like many soldiers, the 52-year-old general wears one dog tag around his neck and another laced into his boot — a grim but useful practice that eases identification in the event of dismemberment. General Nash's boot tag has the green patina of age, the telltale sign of a veteran whose tours of duty included stints as an armored cavalry commander in Vietnam and a tank brigade commander in the Gulf War.

Last summer, after supervising the army's program for modernizing the Saudi Arabian National Guard, General Nash took command of the 1st Armored Division in Germany. On Wednesday, he also became commander of Sector Tuzla for NATO's implementation force, overseeing not only 20,000 U.S. troops but also 6,000 Turkish, Russian, Scandinavian and Baltic soldiers in the eastern third of Bosnia.

"His colonels have nothing but respect for what he knows, and they feed off his energy," said a senior officer who worked with General Nash in Germany. "He's not the physically robust sort of guy who will be down there playing flag football with the troops, but he knows everything that's going on in that division."

Born in Tucson, the son of a career army officer, General Nash spent his childhood shuttling from post to post, including stints in Japan and Indonesia. He turned down an appointment to West Point in 1961 in favor of a civilian education, only to find military calling too strong to resist — a choice encouraged by his mother, who got him another application for the military academy.

His decorations in Vietnam included a Purple Heart and the Silver Star for gallantry. General Nash's later assignments included learning how to fly helicopters

and serving as an aide to General John Vessey, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

Taking over what may be the most politically sensitive field command since the Gulf War, General Nash has his work cut out for him.

He must mark and enforce a "zone of separation" between the warring parties despite bad weather. He must monitor a cease-fire, ensure the withdrawal of heavy weapons by all sides and establish "joint military commissions" throughout the sector to arbitrate disputes.

Moreover, he finds himself shoulder to shoulder with his former adversaries from the Soviet Union in the explosive Posavina corridor, a narrow neck of land connecting the two large Serbian-held sections of Bosnia. Because of Moscow's sensitivities about being under NATO control, General Nash's staff searched for a politically neutral word to describe the relationship. For now the commander is officially a "co-ordinator" when it comes to the Russians.

"He's a pretty demanding guy, but that's not meant negatively," a staff officer observed. "He's a cavalry officer at heart, used to working autonomously and with limited guidance from above, used to sizing up a situation without much information and making a decision quickly."

As for the burden of keeping peace, General Nash places it squarely on the Serbs, Croats and Muslims. "They are the ones who have chosen this path. They don't need me to separate them; they could separate themselves," he said. "It's not like you have boxing rings everywhere with a referee who has to go in and separate each and every boxer," he said, adding: "If they don't want peace, there will not be peace."

Papandreou Suffers From New Infection And Is 'Grave'

Reuters

ATHENS — Doctors were battling Wednesday to keep Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou alive after his weakened immune system was hit by a new lung infection and his condition was described as critical.

"The health of the prime minister has worsened in the past 12 hours," a hospital statement said. "His breathing is constantly supported by a respirator and his kidneys by dialysis."

Doctors at the Onassis Heart Center said Mr. Papandreou's lungs were again collecting fluid, making it very difficult for him to breathe.

"The patient's condition is grave," a doctor said. "He is not responding to antibiotics, and his vital organs are failing. We don't know if we can reverse this situation."

Mr. Papandreou, 76, was hospitalized with pneumonia on Nov. 20.

He suffered his latest setback Monday night, when he was again put on the respirator. He has suffered a series of secondary infections since last week, which doctors have been treating with a wide range of antibiotics.

He became Greece's first Socialist prime minister in 1981 and served until 1989, breaking the right's post-war grip on power. He was elected again in October 1993, but his term has been overshadowed by questions about his health.

He has not been replaced, and no successor has been named. Few Socialists have dared to raise the succession issue while the venerated founder of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement fights for his life.

Doctors have said it is doubtful that Mr. Papandreou would be able to resume his duties even if he recovered, and many Socialists have asked Health Minister Dimitris Kremastinos, who is Mr. Papandreou's personal physician, to brief them on his condition.

Israel Blocks Entry Of 7 Jews From U.S.

Security Reasons Are Cited

Reuters

JERUSALEM — Israel on Wednesday barred seven American Jews from entering the country. The seven, one of whom is a New York rabbi, were considered a security risk by officials still dealing with the assassination last month of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The Interior Ministry said Rabbi Abraham Hecht, 73, of New York, had been barred for having given a religious justification for the eventual killing of Mr. Rabin months before the murder — even though he apologized in a letter to Mr. Rabin days before the assassination.

The ministry said the six others had been linked to illegal activities in Israel, backed extremist groups outlawed in the country or been active in the Jewish Defense League founded by Rabbi Meir Kahane, an anti-Arab militant who was killed in New York in 1990.

"All of these people have a criminal past, could endanger the public order or endanger national security," said Interior Minister Haim Ramon. As a result, they would be barred from entering Israel or from receiving immigrant status, he said.

Under Israeli law, foreigners who can trace Jewish roots to at least one grandparent can become new immigrants and claim Israeli citizenship.

"The files of these people were considered over a long period by security officials and the state prosecutor, who unanimously recommended I exercise my authority," Mr. Ramon said on Israel Radio.

Israeli officials pledged to crack down on Jewish "extremists" after the murder of Mr. Rabin on Nov. 4 by Yigal Amir, a Jew who opposed Israel's handing over of West Bank land to Palestinians.

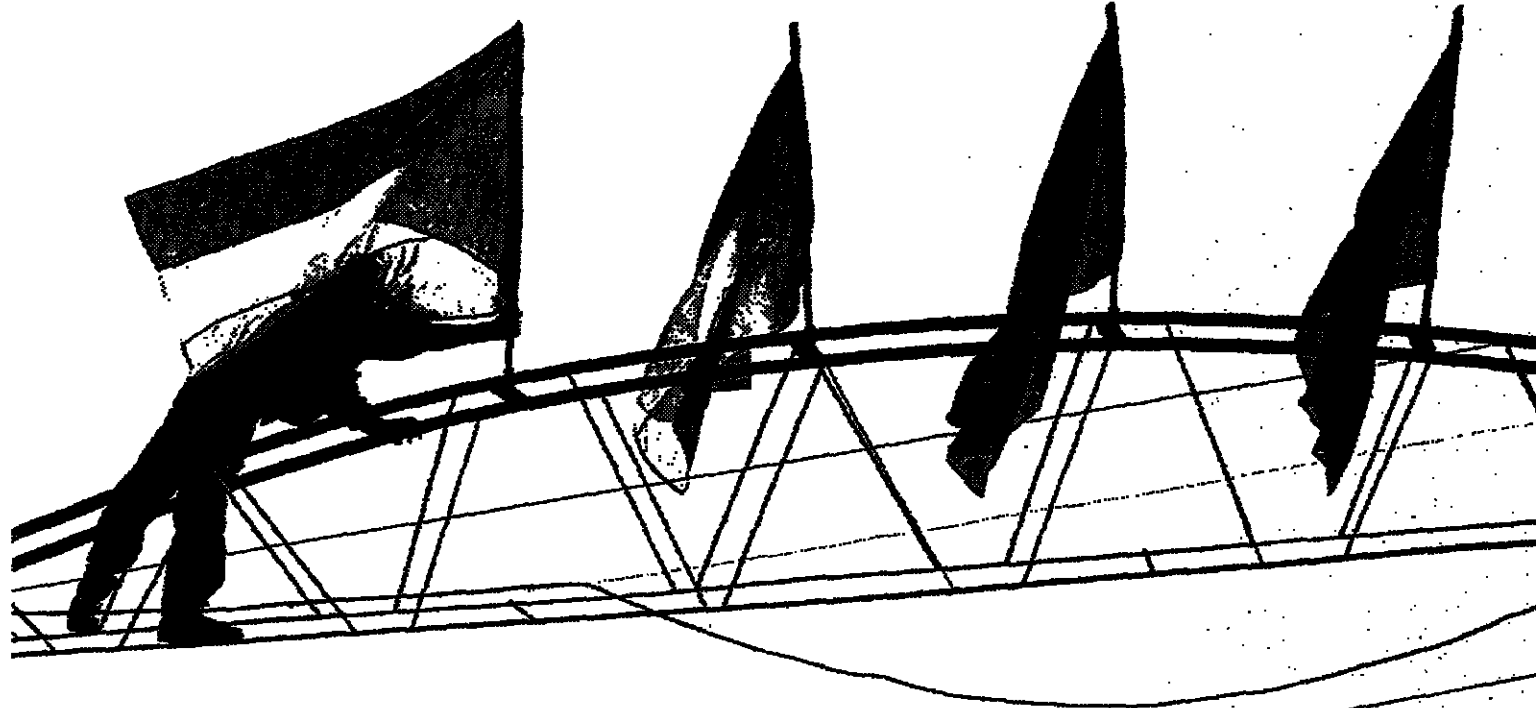
Rabbi Hecht, in remarks that were widely quoted in the American Jewish press, cited portions of religious law that he said allowed a person to be killed for handing over Jewish people or property to an alien people — an apparent reference to Mr. Rabin's deal to give the Palestinians self-rule in the West Bank.

The Interior Ministry said Rabbi Hecht had repeated his comments in a media interview and had banned him even though in a letter to Mr. Rabin before the murder the rabbi wrote: "I wish to repudiate any words and actions of anger that have caused hurt."

Mr. Amir's trial was delayed Tuesday until Jan. 23.

■ Syria Talks Are Sped Up

Israel and Syria have accelerated their timetable for peace negotiations, moving up the start of a planned second round to Jan. 3 from Jan. 7, The Associated Press quoted Israel Radio as reporting. The first round is to begin Dec. 27 in Washington.



A man hanging Palestinian flags from a steel arch over Manger Square in Bethlehem on Wednesday as the city readied for Christmas celebrations.

Walesa Rebuffed on Accusations About Leader's Contact With Spy

Reuters

WARSAW — Poland's leftist cabinet Wednesday dismissed accusations by President Lech Walesa that Prime Minister Jozef Oleksy, a former Communist, had had dangerous contacts with a Moscow spy, said people familiar with the matter.

Mr. Walesa, who has to give up his office to another former Communist, Alexander Kwasniewski, in three days, called a sudden meeting of Parliament leaders and top judges late Tuesday to say he had been given secret material revealing a threat to state security.

He and his office gave no details, but a person close to the government said, "The allegation concerning Oleksy is built around his past social contacts with a person who lived in Warsaw and later turned out to be a Russian intelligence agent."

In a speech Wednesday night, Mr. Oleksy accused Mr. Walesa of trying to force him to resign.

"I will not give in to blackmail," he declared, saying Mr. Walesa and his supporters were trying to destabilize the country before the inauguration of Mr. Kwasniewski.

"What has been done demonstrates that state security may be threatened, but by those who cannot leave their posts in a dignified fashion," Mr. Oleksy said.

And after the two-hour emergency cabinet meeting Tuesday, the government said in a statement: "The cabinet does not share the view about there being a threat to the state."

World Bank Denies Charge

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The World Bank denied Wednesday charges by the human rights activist Harry Wu that political prisoners were being forced to work on a major bank-funded agricultural project in remote western China.

"Information received from the interior minister and defense minister do not give grounds to accept such a standpoint and the adoption of any particular measures," it said.

The pro-Walesa foreign, defense and interior ministers dissented from the cabinet's judgment, and Mr. Walesa left the meeting in silence.

The main opposition party, the Union for Freedom, called on Mr. Oleksy to step down from his office until the issue was cleared up.

Mr. Walesa, who led the Solidarity trade union to victory over Communist rule in 1989, lost last month's elections to Mr. Oleksy's close ally, Mr. Kwasniewski, the head of the Democratic Left Alliance that is part of the ruling coalition.

The speaker of the lower house of Parliament, Jozef Zych, said Mr. Kwasniewski's swearing-in ceremony, which Mr. Walesa has said he will not attend, would go ahead as planned on Saturday.

RUSSIA: Yeltsin Is Firm

Continued from Page 1

and the reformist party Yabloko with 7.27 percent. So far, none of the other parties has crossed the minimum 5 percent barrier to enter the Parliament.

The commission said counting was almost complete in the 225 individual districts. Among them, 77 winners were independents; 57 were nominated by the Communist Party; 20 by the Agrarian Party; 14 by Yabloko; 10 by Mr. Chernomyrdin's party; 9 from Russia's Choice, headed by a former deputy prime minister, Yegor T. Gaidar; 8 by the Power to the People bloc of former prime minister of the Soviet Union Nikolai Ryzhkov; 5 from the Congress of Russian Communities, the party of former General Alexander Lebed, and the others from smaller parties.

The winners include 93 incumbents and seven members of the upper chamber, the Federation Council, Interfax said. Two party leaders who did poorly, General Lebed and the former Russian vice president, Alexander V. Rutskoi, told Reuters that they suspect widespread rigging of the results. However, international monitors said they did not see any systematic falsification.

At the same time, some Western observers have questioned why the count is taking so long. Russian officials are using a computerized system which is not entirely finished but which is being readied for use in next June's presidential contest.

■ Yeltsin Assures Kohl

Mr. Yeltsin assured Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany by telephone that the new Duma would conserve the "mood for reform" and that he would establish "constructive cooperation" with it, Reuters reported from Moscow.

But Mr. Gaidar, the reformist who expects to have no seat in the new Duma, said the Communists risked creating "a real mess" in the run-up to June's presidential election.

To avoid splitting the liberal vote for the presidency, Mr. Gaidar said his Russia's Choice party would probably bow out.

BOSNIA: NATO's Turn as UN Flags Come Down

Continued from Page 1

an often barbarous Serbian assault on a Bosnia whose sovereignty was recognized by the very institution they served?

The strain of this question placed on UN commanders in Bosnia was evident. General Francis Brigueur of Belgium declared before his premature departure that he did not even bother to read UN resolutions anymore.

Lieutenant General Philippe Morillon of France abandoned his cloak of neutrality to go to the rescue of Srebrenica in early 1993, a gesture that saved the lives of thousands of Muslims for two more years and led to the establishment of the so-called United Nations' "safe areas."

Another UN commander,

Lieutenant General Michael Rose of Britain, fell back on the mantra that the United Nations could not "cross the Mogadishu line" — that is, get involved in a conflict in the same way as UN forces had in Somalia.

There were achievements to bolster such attachment to the status quo. Food was delivered to about 2.7 million people, albeit with great difficulty. The war did not spread. The truce that ended the 1993 war between Muslims and Croats was successfully policed.

But an overwhelming image of UN weakness remained: the continued Serbian encirclement of Sarajevo.

It was essentially in an attempt to break this siege and to show UN resolve that Lieutenant General Rupert Smith called in NATO air strikes near the Bosnian Serb stronghold of

Pale last May. The attack was a disaster. Several hundred UN peacekeepers were seized by the Serbs as hostages, and the air strikes had to be called off after two days.

But, from this demonstration of failure, some semblance of coherence began to be pieced together. Peacekeepers who were vulnerable to Serbian hostage-taking were withdrawn, making NATO air power a credible threat at last. Ground troops with artillery were deployed near Sarajevo.

In the end, torn between neutral peacekeeping and the repeated Serbian flouting of UN authority, the United Nations went to war. That war involved bombardment of the Serbs from NATO planes and UN artillery. With the support of newly aggressive U.S. diplomacy, the war was ended.

KOREA: A Menacing Winter on the Peninsula

Continued from Page 1

charges, North Korea might gamble that Seoul is unstable and ripe for attack.

Kwon Young Hae, chief of the Agency for National Security Planning, told the National Assembly last week: "Sometime between this winter and next spring will be the most dangerous period in crisis management on the Korean Peninsula."

Mr. Kwon said that North Korea had recently moved 420 warplanes and helicopters toward the Demilitarized Zone, cutting their flight time to Seoul to as little as six minutes. He said North Korea, at the expense of its civilians' rations, had stored enough rice, oil, medical supplies and other goods in 200 underground bunkers to keep the military running for three months.

Others say those contentions are true, but they do not signal any alarming change in North Korean behavior.

"There is nothing happening in the military sense that creates a major problem," a Western diplomat here said.

He and a veteran military analyst in Seoul said Pyongyang was simply continuing a program filled with candy from the Beer Institute, a pocket calendar, 10 frozen yogurts — thawed, unfortunately — from Hagen-Dazs, and "a little box of almond toffee, but I forget from whom."

Most lawmakers shunt the bigger items off to charities. Mr. Warner sends his to Virginia homeless shelters.

Ameritech, one of the midwestern "Baby Bells" is sending Christmas cards saying it plans to make a charitable contribution in lieu of gifts, a spokeswoman said.

In the future, lawmakers might take their lead from Senator Carl Levin, Democrat of Michigan, one of the architects of the Sen-

ate gift ban, who gave his friends little jars of Rocky Top Farms strawberry jam, cooked in "a farm kitchen here in the midst of northern Michigan's renowned fruitland."

A spokeswoman for Mr. Levin called this a legal "three-fer," because Mr. Levin paid for the jam and it was cheap, made in Michigan and a foodstuff.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Democrat of New York, sent Mr. Levin's sachet of New York honey, and the Senate majority whip, Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi, dropped off some jalapeno cheese spread.

GIFTS: There'll Be No More Green Christmases for the U.S. Congress

Continued from Page 1

pretty slim. Senator John W. Warner, Republican of Virginia, got half a bushel of peanuts, while the House Ways and Means Committee got cashews. Mark Thiessen, a Senate Foreign Relations Committee spokesman, swiped a box of cookies from the annual RJR Nabisco care package, and "interns got the rest," he said.

"It's worse than in previous years," acknowledged Representative Jose E. Serrano, Democrat of New York, eyeing his meager take. "I hope it's not a reflection on my popularity." Mr. Serrano got a glass

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HEALTH/SCIENCE

Pushing Limits of Science

By Lawrence K. Altman
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — Why do researchers and willing patients test the boundaries of medical science when they are told by friendly and sometimes hostile critics that the risks are so daunting that the experiments are doomed to failure?

Part of the answer may be that as the 15th anniversary of the discovery of AIDS nears, many doctors are as frustrated as patients by the lack of more effective treatments for the disease, and are therefore joining their patients in pushing the limits of treatment.

The best example of such a collaboration is the recent experimental transplant of baboon bone marrow into Jeff Getty, a 38-year-old AIDS activist who will probably die of AIDS, but whose life may be prolonged if the experiment succeeds. Mr. Getty worked as a partner with a team of researchers at the University of California at San Francisco and the University of Pittsburgh who designed and conducted the experiment.

It is hard to imagine anyone who was better informed of the risks of an experiment than he chose to enter than Mr. Getty. He has no formal training in science, but he has learned

more immunology than many doctors in his efforts to overcome 15 years of infection with HIV, the AIDS virus.

Mr. Getty has exhausted all standard and other experimental alternatives for AIDS. And he has battled with scientists and government bureaucracies to speed development and testing of novel AIDS therapies. For more than two years, he campaigned for the experimental baboon bone marrow transplant that, after many delays, he received here last week.

It is an experiment that Dr. Hugh Auchincloss of the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, reflecting the views of other experts, has said "will probably hasten his death, not prevent it."

But the decision was Mr. Getty's. Dr. Auchincloss said. Mr. Getty, who is in isolation in a room at San Francisco General Hospital, knows the prevailing medical opinion. But he also knows that medical history is full of examples of surprises made by doctors and patients who defied the word of leading experts.

For years, he studied immunology textbooks and journals. He attended scientific meetings. And his group of AIDS activists organized weekly tutorials where he listened to invited scientists.

"We just boned up and learned the stuff," Mr. Getty said in an interview.

Dr. Suzanne T. Ildstad, a transplant surgeon and immunologist at the University of Pittsburgh who is a chief investigator of the baboon bone marrow experiment, said in an interview, "Sometimes he asks me better scientific questions than my colleagues."

AFTER Mr. Getty learned that Dr. Ildstad was planning to use a novel technique that she had developed in Pittsburgh to do a baboon bone marrow transplant, he was the first to volunteer. Then he participated in discussions of the proposal at many scientific meetings without letting on that he was a candidate.

"Just the whole concept of fighting keeps Jeff going," said Dr. Steven Deeks, another principal investigator. "When he is fighting, it energizes him probably better than any medication."

Today's standard practice was yesterday's experimental therapy, and the advances are often made possible by courageous patients, who open the door a crack to better the lives of those who follow. Such patients are the silent heroes of medicine.

Iceman's Body Yields Secrets of His Life

By Brenda Fowler
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — It was four years ago that a vacationing German couple happened across a well-preserved body lying face-down in a slushy pocket of a glacier in the Italian Alps. Since that chance discovery of what turned out to be a 5,300-year-old corpse, the world's oldest known human-flesh remains, scientists and archaeologists have teased out remarkable information on the man and his environment.

A bit of amber he carried to restart his campfire was from a tree likely to have grown south of the spot where he died. That evidence suggested he was on his way from the fertile Venosta Valley in northern Italy and had probably made his home there. A grain of domesticated wheat clinging to his fur clothing indicated that he had had contact with civilization, which in those days would have been a small farming village.

In the last year, studies of the Iceman, as the body is known, have moved beyond his accoutrements to his flesh. His guardians at the University of Innsbruck in Austria, where he is being preserved at glacial temperature and humidity, have at last opened up the corpse itself to research. Using specially designed titanium instruments that leave no trace elements, doctors have snipped off tiny samples from the man's shrunk organs and tissues and delivered them to scientists in Europe and the United States for studies that are slowly building answers to the questions about the man's life and death.

In September, Dr. Werner Platzer, the Innsbruck anatomist who oversees research on the body, announced that preliminary findings showed the man's stomach was empty when he died. But his large intestine contained considerable amounts of material.

"That means he had probably not eaten for eight hours," Dr. Platzer said in a telephone interview. The finding, which had been predicted by radiologists' interpretations of CAT scans, hinted that the man may have been hungry and weak when he died. A

hypothesis that has strong support among scientists is that he died of hypothermia after being surprised by one of the sudden snowstorms that come up on the Hauslabjoch, the 10,500-foot (3,200-meter) pass over the main ridge where he was found.

Other findings suggest that the man had not been in perfect health. Dr. Andrew Jones, an environmental archaeologist at the Archaeological Resource Centre in York, England, identified the eggs of a parasitic whipworm in a small sample from the man's colon. The preliminary results do not reveal how severe the infestation was, and Dr. Jones could not say whether the parasites caused the man any discomfort.

Another potential vulnerability appeared in the man's lungs, where Dr. Raul J. Cano, a microbiologist at the California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, recently found a fungus called *Aspergillus*, most likely the species *fumigatus*.

"I know that *Aspergillus* has been associated with lung disease, but we have no reason to believe he died of anything other than natural causes," said Dr. Cano, who isolated the DNA of the fungus. And last year doctors found that the lungs were as black as a smoker's, probably a result of living in a shelter with an open hearth.

DISCUSSION of what caused the man's death has been complicated from the start by X-rays that show five broken ribs on his right side. Radiologists are unable to determine whether these fractures occurred before the man's death, under the weight of the glacier or during the rough recovery.

"There are so many rib fractures, they're angled, the chest is severely decreased in diameter, and the posterior ribs are dislocated from the spine," said Dr. William A. Murphy Jr., the head of diagnostic imaging at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. "It's my opinion that it would take significant force to do that, and I can imagine



X-rays show five fractured ribs (left arrow), healed fracture (right).

that force from the weight of ice."

But neither he nor Dr. Dieter zur Nedden, his Austrian colleague, believes the question will soon be laid to rest. That keeps alive the theory of Dr. Konrad Spindler, the University of Innsbruck prehistorian who proposed that the man had been involved in a fight in his village then fled into the mountains, where he succumbed to his injuries.

There are, indeed, signs that the man's life had not been easy. Dr. Horst Seidler, an anthropologist at the University of Vienna, said the man may have lived through episodes of extreme hunger, illness or metal poisoning that arrested his growth. Examining X-rays of the man's shinbone, Dr. Seidler and

his colleagues found 17 Harris lines, thin layers of bony material that form in the hollow of a bone when growth stops. They calculated that severe disturbances occurred in the man's 9th, 15th and 16th years. "Possibly this had to do with periods of hunger in the transition between seasons," Dr. Seidler said.

One of Dr. Seidler's next projects is to compare tissue samples from the Iceman with those of the 500-year-old Peruvian girl whose discovery on an Andean mountain was announced in October.

These two finds were conserved in the same condition," said Dr. Seidler, who was recently in Peru. "This is the first time we've had material with which to compare him."

IN BRIEF

High Blood Pressure And Memory Loss

CHICAGO (Reuters) — High blood pressure left untreated in middle age appears to cause memory loss later, a link that should serve as a health care warning as the population ages, international researchers report. A team led by researchers from Erasmus University Medical School in the Netherlands found that for every increase of 10 points of systolic blood pressure, there was at least a 7 percent greater risk of diminished cognitive skills. A systolic blood pressure of 140 or less is considered normal in middle-aged adults.

As the elderly population in the United States is expected to double by the year 2030, the number of persons with reduced cognitive function will increase, the study author, Dr. Lenore Launer, wrote in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Dr. Launer was joined by researchers from Kuakini Medical Center in Hawaii and the National Institutes of Health in testing the mental skills of 3,735 Japanese-American men who had participated in the Honolulu Heart Program begun in the 1960s. The average age was 78.

Dinosaurs and Birds: Another Link Found

LONDON (Reuters) — A fossilized dinosaur found incubating its eggs has offered the most graphic evidence yet of how they may have been the precursor of the modern bird.

The specimen, a superbly preserved *Oviraptor*, was found under sand in Mongolia, crouched on a nest of at least 15 eggs. Its hind limbs are folded on each side of the nest like the brooding posture of the modern bird. Mark Morell of the American Museum of Natural History reported in *Nature Magazine*.

"This finding provides the strongest evidence yet that mod-

ern avian brooding behavior evolved long before the origin of modern birds," Dr. Morell and his colleagues concluded.

Dead Sea Scrolls: The Hunt Continues

QUMRAN, Israeli-Occupied West Bank (AP) — The hunt for

more Dead Sea Scrolls has begun as teams of volunteers

shoveled earth out of four newly discovered manmade caves.

The first scrolls were found not far from the caves in 1947 by a shepherd and helped shed light on the origins of Christianity. An archaeologist from Bar Ilan University found the four caves this summer.

Dispelling Some Myths About Sugar Perils

By Lawrence G. Proulx
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Ribbon candy. Mince pies. Dark, sticky, rum balls and fruit cake. "Sugar is sweet and so are you." That's a common message in the holiday season.

But as you reach for the gingerbread one more time, you may remember the warnings from seasons past when nutritional naysayers condemned sugar as the dietary ticker to such myriad ills as obesity, diabetes and hyperactivity.

Now, it seems, you may not have to worry so much about those sugar plums that dance in your head. In recent years, sugar has undergone something of a reevaluation. While researchers still urge moderation, most say that as long as you're eating a balanced diet and maintaining a wholesome body weight, sugar is not a major health concern.

Dennis M. Bier, a professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine who examined sugar issues as a member of the official Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, summarized the committee's conclusions this way: "In an otherwise nutritionally healthy diet... there is no evidence that sugar intake within a fairly broad range, that is, the range that most Americans are likely to consume, has any profound consequences."

Official figures are difficult to sort out, but one Food and Drug Administration study estimated that Americans on average eat almost two ounces of added sugar a day, or 42 pounds a year. Added sugar is primarily the refined sugar from sugar cane or corn that is put

into soft drinks, candy, cookies and thousands of other foods. As a separate sweetener, the fine crystals are what you keep in the sugar bowl to add to coffee, put on cereal or make cinnamon toast.

But sugar is also the basic fuel for both plant and animal life, and in the form of glucose it is carried by the blood to all the cells of our bodies. When the sugar that is naturally present in such basic foods as milk, fruit and vegetables is included, our average intake comes to about 3 1/2 ounces a day, the FDA researchers estimated.

Sweets shouldn't be the main part of anyone's diet, but their bad reputation may be outdated. To help you get through this candy cane season, here's what the latest science says about sugar.

Myth: Sugar Causes Diabetes

It doesn't. And the American Diabetes Association says it's no longer taboo for diabetics to eat sugar. "We removed the restriction on sugar because there was no scientific evidence to back it up," said Christine Beebe, a vice president of the association. Blood sugar can be affected by any carbohydrates — not just refined sugar. They are all converted by the body to glucose, so "it's not sugar per se that elevates blood sugar.... By the time that glucose molecule enters the bloodstream, the body doesn't know if it came from a cookie or a slice of bread," Ms. Beebe said.

Myth: Sugar Is Fatening

Not necessarily. "We question this notion of a sweet tooth," said Adam Drewnowski, director of the Human Nutrition Program at the University of Michigan. "We replace it with the notion of a fat tooth."

It is true that people can gain weight

by eating too much sugar, after all it is attractive and it does have calories. But more troublesome is the fact that sugar is often coupled with high-fat foods, and Dr. Drewnowski and other researchers argue that excess fat is more likely to cause health and weight problems.

Myth: Sweets Give You a Sugar Buzz

"We've done studies evaluating this idea that sugar produces a high, the so-called sugar buzz," said Bonnie Spring, a psychology professor at the University of Health Sciences at the Chicago Medical School. "Contrary to the mythology," she said, the main effect of eating a lot of sugar (or other carbohydrate) is sleepiness.

At the same time, in those who have a deficient supply of serotonin, sugar can have the opposite effect. A low level of serotonin is linked to seasonal affective disorder (winter depression), nicotine withdrawal, premenstrual syndrome and carbohydrate food craving, Dr. Spring said. "With people who show signs of a serotonin deficiency, [sugar] actually gives them energy," she explained.

Myth: Sugar Causes Acne

"To our knowledge at this point in time we have no known scientific association between sugar and the occurrence of acne [or] chocolate and the occurrence of acne," said Robert E. Clark, director of dermatologic surgery at Duke University Medical Center.

Myth: Sugar Makes Children Hyperactive

"If I give them sugar they'll be bouncing off the walls" is something pediatricians often hear from parents. But there just isn't evidence that it's true, according to a survey of the med-

ical literature published last month in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"Sugar does not affect the behavior or cognitive performance of children," the report concluded. Although it did allow that "a small effect of sugar or effects on subsets of children cannot be ruled out," the report's principal author said that several of the studies had been aimed specifically at children whose parents considered them sensitive to sugar.

"Even in studies that tried to stack the deck with children who were sensitive to sugar, we didn't find any effect," said Mark L. Wolraich, chief of the division of child development at Vanderbilt University.

Myth: Sugar Causes Tooth Decay

You'd think that even if the whole world gave its approval to sugar, the dentists could still be relied on to disagree. But nothing is certain these days. Even Ken Burrell, senior director for the Council on Scientific Affairs of the American Dental Association, was nonchalant on the subject.

It's not that sugar isn't involved in tooth decay — it certainly is — but Dr. Burrell said that what's important is how often and how long the teeth are exposed to sugar. "Compared to 20 years ago," he said, "we are less specific about the foods people should avoid, and [instead] we tell people to reduce snacking." That limits the teeth's exposure to decaying acids produced by bacteria in the mouth when particles of sugar are present. Remember, even starches, which may not taste sweet, are chains of glucose and are broken down in the mouth into sugar.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

THOSE giving a holiday gift to a bridge enthusiast may order the 1996 Daily Bridge Calendar from Ashlar House (toll-free in the U.S. on 800-749-3292).

Some famous bridge writers contribute hands to the calendar. The diagrammed deal by Bobby Wolff is one.

After West has opened one heart, a take-out double by North leads to a natural contract of three no-trump.

The heart eight is led, and South must consider and resist temptation. If he makes the play of a low card from the dummy he will win a cheap trick with the ten but will be defeated.

West will grab the lead with an ace as soon as he has the chance, and will cash the heart ace. Then the heart jack will drive out the queen, and eventually West will take his other ace and two heart winners to beat the game.

South should recognize that West's opening bid virtually guarantees that he has all three missing aces. So the right play is to win the first trick with the heart king and work on dia-

monds or spades. When West's ace, he can do nothing with his hearts because South needs three aces only, so South ends with an overtrick.

In fact, three no-trump by South would probably fail if North were the dealer and opened the bidding. West would maintain a golden silence, and South would have no clue to the location of the aces.

NORTH
♠ K J 5 2
♥ K 4
♦ K Q 8 3
♣ 10 7

WEST (D)
♠ A 8 4
♥ A J 8 7
♦ A 6
♣ 8 4

EAST
♠ 8 7 3
♥ 6 3
♦ 7 5 4
♣ J 6 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 6
♥ Q 10 5 2
♦ J 10 9 2
♣ A K

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding:
West: 1♥, 2♦, 3NT, Pass
North: 2♦, 3NT, Pass
East: 3NT, Pass
South: 3NT, Pass

West led the heart eight.

BOOKS

ON THE ROAD WITH JIM ROGERS

By Jim Rogers. Illustrated. 402 pages. \$25. Random House. Reviewed by Richard Bernstein

MEMORIALIZING a journey is like investment counseling in one sense: If you're going to do it, you have to do it well in order to make it worth the risk to your clients.

Jim Rogers, who made "millions" (as he puts it) as a Wall Street fund manager and retired at the "ripe old age of 37," must be a brilliant investor. In his literary endeavors, however, this account of a two-year globe-girdling motorcycle trip that he made with his girlfriend pays off occasionally but not nearly often enough to make the reader very rich.

The first hundred or so pages, which take Rogers and his friend, Tabitha Estabrook, east across Central Asia and China, then west through Siberia, are so full of astonished banality that the account nearly becomes a parody of itself. One problem is that Rogers's writing is unexceptional and pedestrian. Another is that he is overimpressed by the depth of his insights.

"I realized as we came down out of the mountains and onto the plains," he writes, as though making a great discovery, "how often borders followed geographical features and changes such as rivers, mountains, lakes, deserts."

The other thing Tabitha and I noticed throughout the Central Asian republics were the number of Muslims," Rogers adds somewhat later, hastening to suggest that everyone would be surprised. "In America we tend to think Muslims are a people centered in the Middle East, not realizing that they run from Morocco to the Philippines."

"We tend not to understand," Rogers goes on in his didactic way, "that a large part of Western history over the past 1,300 or 1,400 years has been Muslims against Christians."

When he gets to China, Rogers continues to share his putatively deep knowledge of history and the world. His quick analysis of the Tiananmen Square student demonstrations in Beijing in 1989 reveals him as a man who does not know that he does not know. When he arrives in the Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union, he provides more trail-

WHAT THEY'RE READING

• David Hockney, the artist, is reading "The Pale Blue Dot: A Vision of the Human Future in Space," by Carl Sagan. "Sagan has fascinated me for a long time, and I have made pictures about his work. I find his views on perspective, reality and the infinite possibility of man's existence very exciting." (Margaret Kemp, IHT)



blazing insight: "The real crime here was the perversion of human nature, the original Communist notion that the natural way of trade and commerce had existed throughout the world for thousands of years was somehow evil."

The idea of Rogers's worldwide jaunt is to combine a good time, the adventure of a lifetime, with professional observations of local economies and a search for investment opportunities.

And so, as he and Estabrook roar through countries on their BMWs, Rogers expatiates on economic conditions, more often to fill up a Zairian gas station. "But this made sense: fix a price too low, and no one

goods and currencies. Rogers's lessons on the international economy are easy to digest and might well be interesting and even useful to those with little knowledge of these matters. They would seem elementary to any reader of the Wall Street Journal editorial page, which follows a similar free-market philosophy, though what Rogers often does well is link that philosophy to concrete illustrations.

"Gas here wasn't expensive, simply unavailable, the way it had been cheap and hard to get in Siberia and Russia," Rogers remarks after several failed attempts to fill up at Zairian gas stations. "But this made sense: fix a price too low, and no one

wants to supply it — not individuals, not corporations and not governments."

When Rogers and his friend take their bikes to Africa for the Tunis-to-Cape Town run, his skills as a diarist improve, in part because he simply tells, in a breezy, conversational style, what he saw and what happened rather than interpreting the meaning of it all. In Africa, too, the travelers have a few genuine adventures.

In Zaire, a once-rich country wrecked, as Rogers notes, by the regime of the strongman Mobutu Sese Seko, the motorcyclists, forced off their bikes by flooded roads, spend 13 days in a convoy of 11 barges being pushed by a single tugboat down the Congo River, which provides Rogers with a rare occasion to write interestingly about local life.

Also in Zaire, he comes into conflict with a young Frenchman he hired in North Africa to drive a truck accompanying them as they make their way on their motorcycles toward Cape Town.

The Frenchman, a randy bon vivant, is always asking for more money, and Rogers finally cuts off the flow. This leads the Frenchman to chase Rogers through the grounds of

a missionary compound with a bowie knife, which lands all three foreigners in the viselike grip of local officials who extort money from them.

When Rogers, trapped and unable to leave without paying up, tries to send a letter to the American Embassy asking for help, the postman coolly tells him: "You can't mail this. We don't send letters to that embassy."

Giving in to local custom after several days, Rogers dips into his capital.

As he and Estabrook make their way along their route through Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas, an odd fact becomes increasingly clear: Their trip, at least from the reader's point of view, is more absorbing when they are not on their motorcycles.

Or perhaps that is not so odd. Motorcycles are fun. They are exhilarating.

But they are, almost by definition, isolating instruments that get you close to but not into the lives of the people who live in the places you are visiting. From the literary point of view, trains, buses and barges are better.

Richard Bernstein is on the staff of The New York Times.

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On March 23rd, the IHT will publish
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MERCOSUR

Among the topics to be covered are:

- Mercosur and the European Union.
- Telecommunications and information technology.
- Stock exchanges and capital markets.
- Transportation.
- Privatizing state-owned concerns.

This section precedes the annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank in Buenos Aires on March 25-27.

For further information, please contact Bill Mahder in Paris at (33-1) 41 43 88 78 or fax (33-1) 41 43 92 13.

Herald Tribune
THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

NYSE

Wednesday's 4 p.m. Close
National price, not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
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12 Month 1 Year 6 Mos 3 Mos 1 Mos

Symbol	12 Month	1 Year	6 Mos	3 Mos	1 Mos
IBM	120.00	118.00	115.00	112.00	110.00
MSFT	55.00	52.00	50.00	48.00	45.00
GOOG	250.00	240.00	230.00	220.00	210.00
AMZN	150.00	140.00	130.00	120.00	110.00
APPL	100.00	95.00	90.00	85.00	80.00
ORCL	80.00	75.00	70.00	65.00	60.00
CRM	60.00	55.00	50.00	45.00	40.00
INTC	40.00	35.00	30.00	25.00	20.00
QCOM	30.00	25.00	20.00	15.00	10.00
TXN	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00	0.00
WDC	15.00	10.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
HPQ	10.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DELL	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WMT	40.00	35.00	30.00	25.00	20.00
KROG	30.00	25.00	20.00	15.00	10.00
WAL	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00	0.00
CVS	15.00	10.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
UNH	10.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MDT	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ABB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ABC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DEF	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GHI	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
JKL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MNO	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PQR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
STU	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
VWX	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
YZA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

IBM Corp. (IBM) closed at 120.00, up 1.00 from the previous session. Microsoft Corp. (MSFT) closed at 55.00, up 1.00. Google Inc. (GOOG) closed at 250.00, up 10.00. Amazon.com Inc. (AMZN) closed at 150.00, up 5.00. Apple Inc. (APPL) closed at 100.00, up 2.00. Oracle Corp. (ORCL) closed at 80.00, up 1.00. Salesforce.com Inc. (CRM) closed at 60.00, up 1.00. Intel Corp. (INTC) closed at 40.00, up 1.00. Qualcomm Inc. (QCOM) closed at 30.00, up 1.00. Texas Instruments Inc. (TXN) closed at 20.00, up 1.00. Western Digital Corp. (WDC) closed at 15.00, up 1.00. Hewlett-Packard Co. (HPQ) closed at 10.00, up 1.00. Dell Computer Corp. (DELL) closed at 5.00, up 1.00. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. (WMT) closed at 40.00, up 1.00. Kroger Co. (KROG) closed at 30.00, up 1.00. Walgreens Inc. (WAL) closed at 20.00, up 1.00. CVS Health Corp. (CVS) closed at 15.00, up 1.00. UnitedHealth Group Inc. (UNH) closed at 10.00, up 1.00. Medtronic Inc. (MDT) closed at 5.00, up 1.00. Abbott Laboratories (ABB) closed at 0.00, up 1.00. ABC closed at 0.00, up 1.00. DEF closed at 0.00, up 1.00. GHI closed at 0.00, up 1.00. JKL closed at 0.00, up 1.00. MNO closed at 0.00, up 1.00. PQR closed at 0.00, up 1.00. STU closed at 0.00, up 1.00. VWX closed at 0.00, up 1.00. YZA closed at 0.00, up 1.00.

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THE TRIBUNE

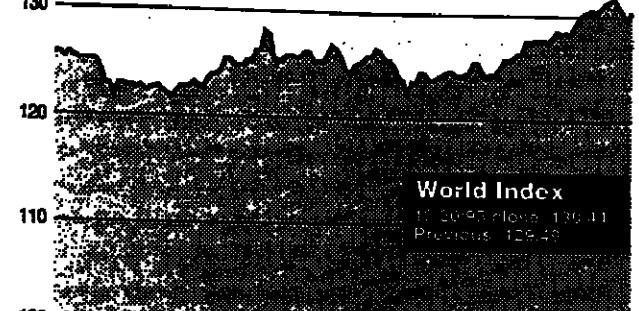
NATIONAL

Cathay State

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THE TRIB INDEX: 130.44

International Herald Tribune World Stock Index, composed of 280 internationally investible stocks from 25 countries, compiled by Bloomberg Business News, Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.



Asia/Pacific
 Approx. weighting: 32%
 Close: 134.43 Prev.: 132.07

Europe
 Approx. weighting: 37%
 Close: 138.23 Prev.: 134.40

North America
 Approx. weighting: 29%
 Close: 127.02 Prev.: 125.01

Latin America
 Approx. weighting: 5%
 Close: 88.87 Prev.: 86.12

The index tracks U.S. dollar values of stocks in Tokyo, New York, London, and other major financial centers. The index is composed of the 20 top issues in terms of market capitalization, otherwise the ten top stocks are tracked.

Industrial Sectors

Sector	Vol.	Pr.	% Chg.	Sector	Vol.	Pr.	% Chg.
Energy	133.76	132.90	+0.58	Capital Goods	130.46	131.11	-0.50
Utilities	127.19	124.05	+2.53	Raw Materials	140.93	138.80	+1.51
Finance	127.22	125.18	+1.63	Consumer Goods	135.31	135.35	-0.03
Services	118.11	118.68	-0.38	Nonconsumables	131.17	129.31	+1.44

For more information about the index, a booklet is available free of charge. Write to Trib Index, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92221 Neuilly Cedex, France.

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Investment Coup Rattles Prague

Young Raiders Quietly Cash In on Loose Regulation

By Peter S. Green
 Special to the Herald Tribune

PRAGUE — They call themselves "the Boys," but what they have done is hardly kid stuff.

In a few weeks of wheeling and dealing after a year of quietly buying shares, these half a dozen Czechs in their 20s and early 30s have assembled a financial empire valued at around \$3 billion. In doing so, they have brought some of the country's leading financiers to their knees and made themselves into the Czech Republic's first home-grown corporate raiders.

What they did was raid at least six of the country's largest investment funds and take control of two of its largest private banks in the largest takeover bid the Czech Republic has seen.

Their self-described guerrilla tactics have shaken up the sleepy Czech market and shown how its lack of transparency and loose regulation are letting a few bold players amass huge stakes. But, brokers say, their tactics are also scaring small Czech investors and large foreign buyers away from the Czech capital markets.

Their moves have "underlined the deficiencies" in the current system and the importance of disclosure to "the people who so far ignored it — the government," said Professor Josef Koubek, an economist

at Charles University in Prague. The Boys are mostly mathematicians and engineering graduates of top Czech universities who have learned their trade in the few hectic years of the Czech capitalist revival.

They say they have helped launch a "third wave" in Czech privatization, collecting dispersed small shareholdings into blocks large enough to exercise management control in the target companies and proceed with the difficult business of restructuring them. Their aim, they say, is to build a Czech-owned financial and industrial empire. "Foreigners are getting their stakes in our strategic industries now. The cash is very important for the liquidity of our whole group," said Radek Peleska, 27.

Jan Dienstl, 25, said his associates only did what everyone else in the Czech market should have done: "We just bought shares which were undervalued. We don't know why no one else did it."

But others say the Boys have done little but strip investment funds of their best assets.

"I don't believe that they are trying to build an industrial group," Mr. Koubek said. "To me it seems like a series of speculative moves on the market. They were just looking for whoever has a lot of money and would pay a lot of money to save their funds."

After the Boys attacked the Agrobanka investment fund, for instance, its net-asset value dropped 24 percent.

Mr. Dienstl conceded that the Boys used "guerrilla" tactics but said stealth was vital to their success. "OK, we should have been above board about it, but there are no standard rules here," he said.

He insisted they did nothing illegal and, contrary to local press reports, are not laundering money.

Whatever the origin of their money and their ultimate intentions, the Boys have gotten very rich, very quickly, have had a major impact on the Czech market and could not have done it in a more regulated market.

Conceived over a year ago, their plan was dubbed "Project Funds," and it went to the heart of the Czech economic success: the mass privatization give-away that handed shares in formerly state-owned enterprises to 6.5 million of the country's 8 million adults.

Many Czechs hold their shares through sleepy investment funds whose cautious approach meant the funds held were often worth far more than shares in the funds themselves were. By buying fund shares on the open market, a smart investor could shake up the funds and get rich, or

See CZECH, Page 17

Polygram Buys Rights to Film Library

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Polygram NV said Wednesday its film unit had agreed to buy distribution rights to the Samuel Goldwyn Co. film-and-television library for \$62 million and the assumption of unspecified assets and liabilities.

The acquisition is a key move for Polygram, which is seeking works to feed the worldwide distribution network it is building. A strong library provides cash flow to smooth earnings from Polygram's movie-producing assets, which include Interscope Communications, Island Pictures, Propaganda Films and Working Title.

Michael Kuhn, president of Polygram Film and Entertainment, said the deal meant Polygram's film catalog "is reaching a very significant size" that complements its new film production activities.

Among recent Polygram films have been "Four Weddings and a Funeral," "Home for the Holidays" and "French Kiss."

Polygram, which is 75 percent owned by Philips Electronics NV, saw its shares rise 3.60 guilders, to \$5.10 (\$52.92) on Wednesday. The shares had slipped 8.30 guilders on Tuesday after the company warned that a lack of hit pop albums and movies would cause its 1995 profit to remain flat.

Samuel Goldwyn Co., based in Los Angeles, was reportedly near a sale of the company this summer to Turner Broadcasting System Inc., but those discussions broke off when Turner agreed to be acquired by Time Warner Inc.

The Polygram deal does not include Samuel Goldwyn's chain of 52 theaters, its projects in development and domestic and

foreign theatrical distribution operations.

The Goldwyn film library contains more than 850 movies including recent releases such as the Academy Award-winning "The Madness of King George" as well as 75 films from the legendary producer Samuel Goldwyn Sr.

The TV library includes over 700 episodes from such TV series as the original "Flipper" and "Gentle Ben" as well as the syndicated shows "American Gladiators" and "The New Adventures of Flipper."

Meyer Gottlieb, president of Samuel Goldwyn, said the deal would allow the company to restructure its bank debt and provide for the distribution of its library.

The company posted a loss of \$12.3 million on revenue of \$53.4 million in the six months ended Sept. 30. (AP, LAT)

French Police Whisk Executive Off Airplane

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — Pierre Botton, a French businessman accused of fraud in a high-profile case, was arrested on Wednesday as he was trying to board a plane for the United States, adding intrigue to a widening anti-corruption sweep.

Authorities took Mr. Botton into custody at Charles de Gaulle Airport just hours before he was to be questioned in an influence-peddling case.

Meanwhile, Martin Bouygues, the chairman of the French construction group Bouygues, was released Wednesday after spending more than 24 hours in police custody for questioning into alleged illegal payoffs.

Bouygues spokesman said.

Mr. Bouygues had been taken into custody on Tuesday after answering a summons from a judge.

Mr. Bouygues, head of the group that also owns a dominant stake in the national TF1 television station, had been held for questioning about 2 million French francs (\$403,500) allegedly paid to a Swiss bank account held by Mr. Botton, the son-in-law of Michel Noir, a former mayor of Lyon, according to the daily Le Monde.

Mr. Botton was convicted earlier this year of fraud, and Mr. Noir of receiving the proceeds of fraud. Both are free while appealing prison sentences.

Mr. Noir was a cabinet minister who served in the conservative government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac from 1986 to 1989. Mr. Chirac, now president, is not under investigation.

Investigators found that French political parties across the spectrum commonly demanded payoffs before munic-

ipalities they controlled would award public works contracts, and the laws on party financing were tightened after 1993 in an effort to reduce corruption.

An investigating magistrate searched Mr. Bouygues's office in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, near Paris, on Wednesday, judicial authorities said.

Mr. Botton's intended destination in the United States was not immediately known. (Reuters, AP, NYT)

Total and Russia Set Deal to Tap Arctic Oil Deposit

Agence France-Press

MOSCOW — The French oil company Total SA on Wednesday signed a major deal with Moscow to tap an oil deposit in Russia's Arctic region.

Total became the first European company to conclude a production-sharing agreement between a Russian operator and a single company, rather than a consortium.

The Total project is currently expected to produce as much as 50,000 barrels of oil a day from a deposit that is located in the northern Nemets autonomous region.

Investments are expected to reach \$300 million in the first development phase.

Russian Energy Minister Yuri Shafarmanik used the occasion of the signing of the contract to sharply attack the French state for not supporting French companies that want to invest in Russia.

Mr. Shafarmanik hailed Total's persistence and noted that the French concern had worked on the project for at least five years.

INTERNATIONAL MANAGER

Cathay Steps on China Partner's Toes

By Kevin Murphy
 International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — The meeting between China and the old colonial hands that once ruled this colony has never been as easy or elegant. Toes are sometimes stepped on and ribs crushed in the awkward embrace that allows competition and commerce to sway to the same music.

Yet it is a dance that John Swire & Sons Ltd. has long been praised for doing well, even as this British colony prepares to revert to Beijing's rule.

Until now, that is.

Among the hongs, or trading groups, the Swire family-controlled business has probably moved more adventurously than most in seeking out mainland Chinese business partners and allies.

With Swire's Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. and the property company Swire Pacific Ltd., firmly rooted in Hong Kong, ventures with groups favored by Beijing represent an insurance policy against future interference and uncertainty.

But suddenly, after a rare public spat in the local press between the heads of Cathay Pacific and CITIC Pacific Ltd., a leading shareholder in the airline and an investment arm of the Chinese government, many here wonder if the premiums on that insurance are about to rise.

Complaints from Cathay Pacific's managing director, Rod Eddington, about unfair competition coming from China were greeted one day later by comments from his counterpart at CITIC, Henry

Fan, that the end of Cathay's privileged position was overdue.

Given the rising tensions accompanying the July 1, 1997 handover of sovereignty, analysts concerned about Swire Pacific's post-colonial future are asking, "Is this any way for a partners and so-called friends to act in public?"

"I have no doubt China will want to have a bigger stake in the aviation market going forward," said Declan Magee, an analyst with HG Asia Ltd. "With only \$50 days to go before the handover, pressure is not going to relent."

Currently John Swire & Sons controls 27 percent of Swire Pacific which, in turn, owns 52.6 percent of Cathay Pacific, Hong Kong's leading international airline.

But CITIC Pacific has 10.5 percent of Cathay, as well as 5 percent stakes in the state-owned companies China Travel Service and China National Aviation Corp. CITIC is, in effect, Beijing's aviation holding company and the industry regulator at the same time.

Complicating matters, Cathay and Swire Pacific together own 43 percent of Dragonair, a Hong Kong-based airline that has profited in recent years from its flights to mainland China and Asian destinations not served by Cathay.

CITIC Pacific now owns 46.2 percent of Dragonair, and China National Aviation, which hopes to create its own Hong Kong airline after 1997, reportedly is in line for a stake in Dragonair.

But how much of a stake — and from whom it will come — is becoming a

matter of speculation and, recently, disagreement between Swire and CITIC.

In an interview published Wednesday in the South China Morning Post, CITIC Pacific's managing director, Henry Fan, warned Swire and Cathay Pacific "to wake up to reality and face competition."

Mr. Fan said CITIC "took exception" to comments by Mr. Eddington to the effect that Hong Kong would remain a one-airline city. He also described Swire Pacific's objections to China National Aviation Corp.'s attempt to establish a new airline in Hong Kong as "premature."

Swire Pacific and Cathay Pacific moved quickly to douse the unusual public spat, contending that Mr. Eddington's comments were taken out of context and the matter clarified with CITIC.

But several analysts greeted the contretemps as a sign of the intense maneuvering underway in negotiations over Cathay's future role in Dragonair.

By threatening to start an airline that could compete head-to-head with Cathay Pacific on its international routes, China National Aviation may be squeezing Swire for a much larger stake of Dragonair than it had been prepared to give up.

"If they are allowed to compete on a level playing field, it will limit Cathay's earnings and hurt Swire, but I think they would more than survive," said one analyst, who asked not to be named. "However, if China is going to start throwing political daggers around, that's a serious problem for Cathay Pacific — and a lot of other foreign businesses around town."

Socialist to Run French Rail Service

Le Floch-Prigent Seen Speaking Unions' Language

By Barry James
 International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Is this any way to run a railroad? Retirement at 50 for engineers. Lines so expensive it would be cheaper to close them and provide a collective taxi service. A 175-billion franc (\$35.7 billion) deficit and a cost to the government next year of 38.5 billion francs.

A new man stepped in on Wednesday to attempt to get the French state railroad, Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français back on track after a 24-day strike by railway workers protesting government attempts to restructure the industry.

He is Loïc Le Floch-Prigent, 52, who comes from a similar position as president of the state gas concern; before that, he was chairman of Elf Aquitaine SA, then a state-controlled energy company. One of the few avowed Socialists at the top of French industry, the bearded executive is referred to by detractors as "Pink Floch."

Although he has not been a favorite with previous right-of-center governments, Mr. Le Floch-Prigent was one of the few captains of industry willing to pick up the poisoned chalice at the SNCF. Some commentators said that as a Socialist, he was considered the most capable of dealing with the militant railway workers, flush with victory in forcing the government to abandon

an attempt to curb their generous benefits.

He succeeds Jean Bourguignon, who resigned last week after Prime Minister Alain Juppé attacked him for failing to establish a dialogue with the workers.

The strikers forced Mr. Juppé to abandon an assault on their privileges, including generous pension arrangements out of reach of the average French worker, and some of the highest pay and shortest hours of any railway workers in the European Union.

Any future plan is likely to include measures to trim the deficit in other ways, by slashing operating costs, reducing investments and possibly laying off part of the more than 180,000-person work force. Since the SNCF deficit is two thirds as big as that of France's troubled social-security system, a radical restructuring of the railroad remains a priority, despite the temporary shelving of a restructuring plan under union pressure.

The unions say they have already paid their debt through 70,000 layoffs in the past decade and are not prepared to see any further dismantling of the industry. One of the many factors causing the strike was the allegation by the General Confederation of Labor, or CGT, that the government was planning to cut 6,000 kilometers (3,600 miles) of local lines.

The unions claim they are being made to pay for decisions imposed on the SNCF by

the government. For example, the government sees France's network of high-speed trains as an important factor in the nation's development and a technological showcase for French industry. But SNCF was made to pay for the network largely out of its own resources, which accounts not only for a large part of the deficit but for 14 billion francs a year in debt-servicing costs.

Jean Sivadère, president of the National Federation of Transport Users Associations, which represents passengers and consumers, said concentration on the high-speed network led the SNCF into failing to invest in the lesser-used regional lines or making the marketing effort necessary to increase local traffic.

Mr. Bourguignon had been at the head of the SNCF for only 18 months, after a 24-year career at the state electricity company.

■ France Telecom Ready to Retool

France Telecom's chief executive, Michel Bon, unveiled a plan Wednesday to reorganize the world's fourth-largest telephone company, preparing it for competition and a planned partial sale, Bloomberg Business News reported from Paris.

Mr. Bon, who took over as the state-owned company's chairman in September, plans to introduce decentralized management, use-linked pricing and an organization that revolves around the client.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Dec. 21 Eurocurrency Deposits									
	Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	French Franc	British Pound	Japanese Yen	ECU		
1 month	5 1/4 - 5 1/2	3 1/4 - 4	2 1/4 - 2 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	4 1/4 - 4 1/2	1 1/4 - 1 1/2	5 1/4 - 5 1/2		
3 months	5 1/4 - 5 1/2	3 1/4 - 4	2 1/4 - 2 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	4 1/4 - 4 1/2	1 1/4 - 1 1/2	5 1/4 - 5 1/2		
6 months	5 1/4 - 5 1/2	3 1/4 - 4	2 1/4 - 2 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	4 1/4 - 4 1/2	1 1/4 - 1 1/2	5 1/4 - 5 1/2		
1 year	5 1/4 - 5 1/2	3 1/4 - 4	2 1/4 - 2 1/2	6 1/4 - 6 1/2	4 1/4 - 4 1/2	1 1/4 - 1 1/2	5 1/4 - 5 1/2		
Sources: Reuters, Lloyds Bank. Rates applicable to interbank deposits of \$1 million minimum (or equivalent).									
Key Money Rates									
Discount rate	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4		
Prime rate	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4		
Federal funds	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4		
3-month CDs	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4		
3-month Treasury bill	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4		
1-year Treasury bill	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4		
2-year Treasury note	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4		
5-year Treasury note	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4		
10-year Treasury note	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4		
30-year Treasury bond	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4		
10-year Treasury bond	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4		
Sources: Reuters, Lloyds Bank. Rates applicable to interbank deposits of \$1 million minimum (or equivalent).									
Other Dollar Values									
Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$
Argentine peso	1.0000	British pound	0.7500	Canadian dollar	0.7500	French franc	6.5596	German mark	1.9360
Australian dollar	1.0000	Italian lira	200.48	Japanese yen	100.00	Spanish peseta	166.37	Swiss franc	1.7360
Brazilian real	0.0000	South African rand	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000
Chinese yuan	8.2716	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000
Czech koruna	20.3607	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000
Danish krone	6.4656	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000
Deutsche mark	1.9360	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000
Dracma	200.48	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000
Escudo	200.48	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000
Florin	200.48	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000	U.S. dollar	1.0000
Sources: Reuters, Lloyds Bank. Rates applicable to interbank deposits of \$1 million minimum (or equivalent).									
Forward Rates									
Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day
British pound	1.5379	1.5389	1.5399	Japanese yen	101.48	101.80	102.12	U.S. dollar	1.0000

EUROPE

Hoechst to Slash Drugs Division, Cutting 8,000 Jobs

The Associated Press
FRANKFURT — Hoechst AG said Wednesday that it planned to cut 8,000 jobs in a far-reaching reorganization of its global pharmaceutical business, Hoechst Marion Roussel.
 As part of the chemical company's plan to close more than half its 77 drug factories, Hoechst said it would close five plants in North America and its research facility in Cincinnati, Ohio. Hoechst said it had not decided which North American factories were to close.

Hanson Outlines £1.5 Billion Plan To Trim Its Lines

LONDON — Hanson PLC on Wednesday announced three measures aimed at raising £1.5 billion (\$2.3 billion) and narrowing its range of businesses.
 Hanson will offer shares in its Suburban Propane Gas Corp. unit in the United States, put Cavenham Forest Industries Inc. — another U.S. subsidiary — up for sale and sell debt as part of its plan to "concentrate on fewer, larger activities," Derek Bonham, its chief executive, said.
 Hanson, which has said it wants to focus on its chemical, consumer goods, energy, building materials and equipment interests, plans to raise £1 billion by selling Cavenham Forest, which owns 1.75 million acres of U.S. timberland and a sawmill operator. It also plans to sell 62 percent of Suburban Propane through a public offering. It said the offer and a debt issue by Suburban should raise £500 million.
 Separately, Forte PLC, seeking to fend off a takeover bid from Granada Group PLC, said it had sold its Travelodge hotel chain to an American consortium led by Hospitality Franchise Systems Inc., which operates Howard Johnson hotels, for \$175 million.
 (Bloomberg, Reuters)

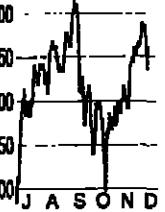
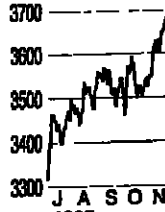
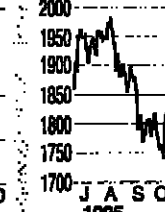
Europe's Air Fares Cling to Heights

Winds of Change Barely Stir State-Owned Carriers

By Richard W. Stevenson
New York Times Service
LONDON — Nearly three years after the European Union lifted most restrictions on the routes airlines could fly within Europe and on what they could charge, many air fares remain breathtakingly high, with many carriers remaining state-owned and only starting to cut operating costs.
 Never is the contrast made more clear than when some upstart emerges to take on the entrenched airlines.
 While Europe's state-owned airlines struggle financially, EBA Express — which started flying only last year — is already profitable and is adding new flights and destinations at low prices. The only real difference between it and the established major carriers is that EBA offers no meals and requires a day's notice of any change in reservations.
 "Intra-European flights are too expensive," said Victor Hassen, managing director of EBA Express, which is owned by City Hotels SA of Brussels. "The market demand was there to make a no-frills, low-fare operation successful. We get people to fly where in the past they couldn't afford to fly."
 Within Europe, though, innovative carriers such as EBA Express remain the exception. Few of the state-owned carriers have expanded to new routes, leaving travelers in many cases with a choice among only a few carriers, all charging the same high fares.
 Only 7 percent of European routes that cross borders are served by more than two airlines, according to a recent study by Britain's Civil Aviation Authority.
 A recent study by American Express found that fares within Europe were roughly twice as high as those for comparable distances in the United States.
 "I am concerned that consumers have not benefited as much as expected from more choice and lower fares," said Neil Kinnoch, the commissioner in charge of transportation policy for the European Union and a former leader of Britain's Labor Party.
 Most fares within Europe, he said, are still "considerably above what could reasonably be justified by cost levels."
 The high fares are evidence that Europeans have so far seen nothing like the upheaval that airline deregulation brought to the United States during the last two decades.
 But with the EU scheduled to remove the remaining barriers to competition on European routes in 1997, and a growing number of small but determined new carriers springing up to grab a piece of the business, the need to get into fighting trim and bring fares down is finally being taken seriously by Europe's big airlines.
 There is no doubt that the stakes for them are high. Many analysts say that only four or so of the dozen biggest carriers will survive in their current form once deregulation is completed, throwing state-owned airlines into the rough-and-tumble of the private sector.
 Lufthansa and British Airways lead the list of those likely to prosper, as both of them have already been privatized and are considered efficient by worldwide standards. Air France is a big question mark, as it is Alitalia, and Iberia faces a bleak future in the view of many analysts.
 The high-cost carriers have survived only with government aid. Iberia won approval from the European Union last week for \$705 million in new subsidies from the Spanish government. Air France is in the middle of a \$4 billion government subsidy program. But the European Union has promised to crack down on further subsidies and eventually to disallow them.
 Unions representing airline employees, militantly protecting their pay and working conditions, are quick to strike, hurting service, reputation and profits. The strike-plagued Scandinavian Airlines System said work stoppages had cost it about \$45 million in the first nine months of the year.
 Governments, worried about being blamed for further job losses when unemployment across Europe is already high, have proved reluctant to push job cuts among state-owned carriers.
 There are some big exceptions to the trend. Britain, Ireland and Germany have gone much further than other nations in deregulating their domestic airline industries and have pushed their airlines to become more competitive.
 British Airways has become Europe's most efficient carrier largely because it must compete with a well-established domestic competitor, British Midland, and a growing number of start-ups.
 Another British carrier, Virgin Atlantic Airways, which now flies to the United States and Asia from London, is considering offering flights within Europe.
 Even those airlines that have long enjoyed political and regulatory protection from their governments are now being forced to consider serious changes to survive.
 Despite a history of vehement opposition from its unions, Air France, for example, has proposed hiring new cabin crew members at lower pay than current employees, and its chairman, Christian Blanc, has sought to stimulate entrepreneurial management environment by breaking the company's operations into 11 units, each responsible for its own performance.

Ameritech & Telekom Get Hungary Deal

BUDAPEST — Ameritech Corp. and Deutsche Telekom AG said Wednesday they would pay \$850 million to raise their stake in the Hungarian telephone company Matav to 67 percent from 30 percent.
 The companies, through their MagyarCom venture, paid \$875 million in Dec. 1993 for the original stake in the first sale of a stake in an Eastern European phone company to foreign investors.
 The venture is to get a 25-year concession for long-distance and local calls and a long-distance monopoly for eight years. The deal, which is one of the largest privatizations to date in Eastern Europe, includes a pledge to float part of Matav on the stock exchange at an unspecified date.
 Demand for Matav's services is booming in Hungary, where there are about 24 phone lines for every 100 people, compared with a U.S. ratio of 60 lines per 100 people. Hungary has a population of about 10.4 million. There are about 524,000 pending requests for telephone lines in Hungary.
 "Rarely do you have this kind of suppressed demand," Mr. Catlow said.
 The government privatization agency will retain a 28 percent stake in Matav.
 Other Matav shareholders include the European Bank for Reconstruction & Development, with about 2 percent, and International Finance Corp., the private arm of the World Bank, with less than 1 percent.
Tele Danmark Seeks Czech Deal
 Tele Danmark A/S and Telenor Bedrift AS of Norway agreed on Wednesday to submit a joint bid for a mobile-phone license in the Czech Republic, Bloomberg Business News reported from Prague.
 The companies are seeking a 49 percent stake in a venture with Ceske Radiokomunikace AS, which will operate one of two new GSM licenses in the Czech Republic. GSM, or Global System for Mobile Telecommunications, lets customers use phones outside their home countries.

Investor's Europe				
Frankfurt DAX		London FTSE 100 Index		Paris CAC 40
				
J A S O N D 1995		J A S O N D 1995		J A S O N D 1995
Exchange	Index	Wednesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	EEX	980.61	972.51	+1.71
Brussels	Stock Exchange	3,271.54	3,253.34	+0.22
Frankfurt	DAX	2,252.07	2,235.62	+1.18
Copenhagen	Stock Market	361.74	360.94	+0.33
Helsinki	HEX General	1,625.65	1,600.58	+1.63
Oslo	OBX	392.75	393.62	+1.05
London	FTSE 100	3,678.30	3,576.93	+1.03
Madrid	Stock Exchange	317.39	311.66	+1.84
Milan	MIBTEL	3,103.00	3,240.06	-1.43
Paris	CAC 40	1,831.29	1,810.21	+1.16
Stockholm	SK 18	1,270.58	1,290.34	-2.31
Vienna	ATX	999.21	921.87	+1.99
Zurich	BPI	2,095.10	2,074.92	+1.02
Source: Telekurs				
International Herald Tribune				

ASIA/PACIFIC

Honda to Produce More Than Half Its Vehicles Abroad

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO—Honda Motor Co. said Wednesday it expected to make more vehicles abroad than in Japan next year, which analysts said would be a first for the country's automobile industry.

Honda predicted it would make 975,000 vehicles in Japan next year, unchanged from this year's estimated level and down 2.3 percent from 1994.

The company said it expected production at its overseas plants to climb 12.9 percent, to 966,000 vehicles, in 1996. Overseas production rose 12.1 percent this year.

Industry analysts said it would be the first time that overseas production had accounted for more than half of a Japanese automaker's output.

A strong yen and fierce price competition are making Honda and other Japanese automakers expand production abroad, while those factors and a weak Japanese economy are restraining domestic output.

For example, Honda announced in Toronto on Tuesday that it would invest 300 million Canadian dollars (\$218.4 million) in a plant to produce a new minivan for the North American market. The expansion will double output at Honda's operations in Alliston, Ontario, by adding annual capacity of 120,000 vehicles starting in 1998.

Honda is expected to hire 1,200 employees as part of the expansion, which the company said would bring its annual output in North America to 840,000 units.

Honda also forecast growth Wednesday for its automobile sales in Japan next year, predicting they would rise 14.5 percent, to 720,000 vehicles, after growing 12.5 percent in 1995. The figure includes Honda cars made

abroad. The company expects its 1996 automobile exports from Japan to plunge 19.9 percent, to 350,000, after a fall of 15.3 percent this year.

Honda's president, Nobuhiko Kawamoto, said Honda would begin manufacturing a new passenger-car model in Thailand in the first half of 1996 with a production goal of 60,000 a year. He said the company hoped to make Bangkok its regional headquarters.

Honda executives also said the company had begun technical experiments on developing what it said would be the world's smallest jet engine.

"We have no plans at the moment to mass-produce this engine, but we hope to apply some of the technology we learned here to automobile production," one executive said.

He said the company planned eventually to establish a production related to jet-engine production. Honda said the engine would be able to fly a plane at speeds up to 800 kilometers an hour (500 mph).

(AFP, Reuters, AFX)

Nissan Plans U.S. Plant

Nissan Motor Co. said it would invest 5 billion yen (\$49.2 million) to build a transmission plant in the United States with an annual capacity of 300,000 units, AFX News reported.

Nissan said production would start in the spring of 1998.

The automaker also said it expected its vehicle sales in Japan to rise 7.1 percent, to 1.2 million vehicles, in 1996 after a 7.7 percent increase in 1995.

Nissan predicted Japan's economy would gradually recover in 1996 and that domestic demand for autos excluding minivans would rise 4.1 percent next year, to 5.4 million vehicles.

Taxpayers Decry Bailout

Japan Bank Stocks Gain but Public Wails

Bloomberg Business News

TOKYO—Japan's decision to use public money to bail out seven insolvent housing loan companies is being applauded by stock investors and booed by taxpayers.

After long negotiations between the companies, known as *jusen*, their creditors and the government, the Japanese Treasury on Tuesday said it would use 680 billion yen (\$6.67 billion) of taxpayer funds to pay off the debt.

The stock market cheered the news. Shares in banks, which until Tuesday thought they might have to shoulder some of the losses, rose nearly 2 percent on Wednesday, fueling a 1.61 percent gain in the benchmark Nikkei 225 Index.

"The *jusen* problem is finally coming to an end," said Saito Wakebe, a fund manager at Gamma Asset Management (Japan). "It's convincing because we are seeing figures."

Japanese taxpayers — each of whom will shoulder a 5,478 yen (\$54) bill as their contribution to the bailout — were far less enthusiastic.

"Are they joking?" asked Masayoshi Fukuda, a 30-year-old elevator repairman. "The decision was handed down from above. I would have preferred some sort of consultation with the public."

Further losses that have not yet been declared uncollectible may eventually push the total cost of the bailout to 1.2 trillion yen (\$11.76 billion), or nearly 10,000 yen per taxpayer, said Yoshinobu Yamada, a bank analyst at Merrill Lynch Japan.

Editorials in Japan's leading newspapers on Wednesday blasted the taxpayer bailout.

Mainichi Shimbun called it "a stupid plan that forces sacrifices on Japanese citizens" and Asahi Shimbun said it was "a reckless

breach of the standards of fiscal policy."

Large families will be especially hard hit. "20,000 yen per family of four really hurts," said Eisuko Hinata, 49, a receptionist for a maintenance company in Osaka. "I listened to the prime minister's speech last night, but I still don't understand why taxpayers have to pay."

The financial problems of the *jusen* began in the late 1980s when, lured by land prices that tripled between 1985 and 1990, they abandoned their traditional home-mortgage business to make loans to real estate developers and speculators.

Bank of Japan Governor Yasuo Matsushita said the government's plan to help bail out Japan's troubled housing lenders would restore global confidence in the U.S. financial system.

"This is a decisive step," he said. "We hope that this will speed up progress in resolving the bad loan problem and lead to the stabilization of the financial system."

Mr. Matsushita urged that the government follow through as quickly as possible on its pledged investigation to determine who was responsible for the failures.

Japan Budgets a Record Deficit

Japanese lawmakers traded accusations of fiscal irresponsibility Wednesday after the government announced an annual budget with a record deficit. The Associated Press reported from Tokyo.

The draft budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 1996, calls for a record 75.12 trillion yen in spending, up 5.8 percent from last year's initial budget. To help pay for it, the government will issue bonds worth 21 trillion yen, setting another record.

Bajaj Woos Chrysler, Kawasaki

Bloomberg Business News

PUNE, India — Chrysler Corp. and Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. of Japan are considering buying stakes in Bajaj Auto Ltd. of India, one of the world's largest makers of 2- and 3-wheel scooters, Bajaj said Wednesday.

Chrysler may buy a 5 percent to 7 percent stake if Bajaj chooses it as a partner for a proposed automobile venture, said Rahul Bajaj, the company's chairman. Kawasaki, which collaborates with Bajaj to make motorcycles, may seek a 2 percent stake, he said.

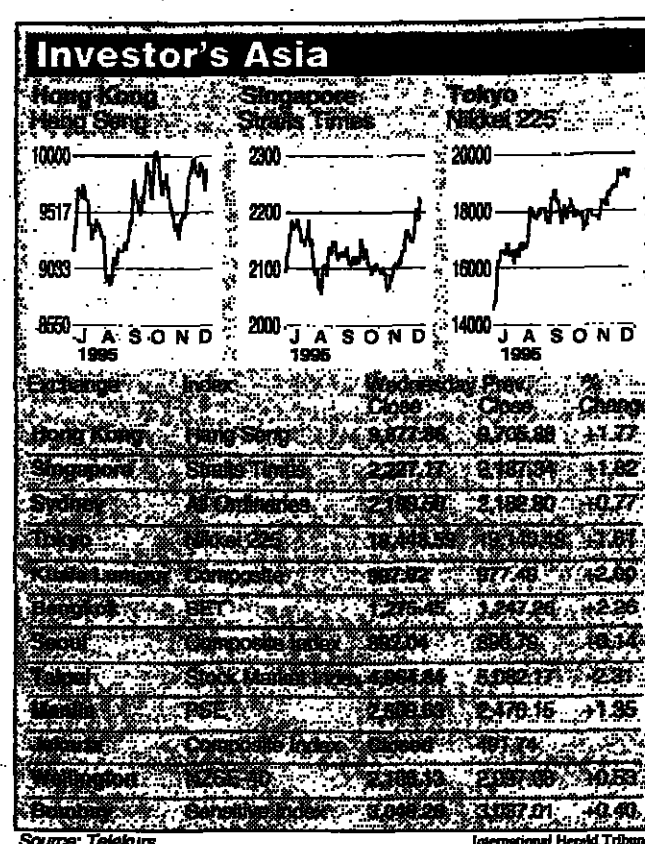
"Chrysler is considering it," said Mr. Bajaj, adding that the Kawasaki stake was "being discussed informally."

A spokesman for Kawasaki said the company had "received a request from Bajaj over taking a stake and is now considering the matter."

Bajaj has focused on Chrysler, along with Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. of Japan, as potential partners for a car-manufacturing venture it is planning. If it chooses Chrysler, the U.S. company may buy a stake similar to the 7 percent stake held by Ford Motor Co. in its Indian partner, Mahindra & Mahindra Co., Mr. Bajaj said. That would be in addition to Chrysler buying equity in the separate venture to make small autos, he said.

A 7 percent stake would cost Chrysler about 3.8 billion rupees (\$108.6 million) at market prices, said Mr. Bajaj. A 2 percent stake would cost Kawasaki 1.1 billion rupees.

The possibility of a major automaker taking a stake in Bajaj was just one reason why its shares were considered attractive, said S. Subramanian, an analyst at the brokerage HG Asia Ltd. "The basic reason is its scooter business," he said. "Bajaj is clearly the leader."



Very briefly:

- Smithline Beecham PLC plans to delist from the Tokyo stock exchange; the company cited the high cost of maintaining the listing and the small volumes traded in its stock.
- Reliance Industries Ltd. said a Bombay court lifted an order preventing the trade of 1.5 million shares. The company claimed this vindicated its stand that it had been dragged into controversy "for ulterior motives."
- Reliance Petroleum Ltd. plans to spend \$2.6 billion to build one of the world's largest oil refineries; Universal Oil Products of the United States is to provide technical assistance, while Bechtel Group Inc. is to build the plant.
- News Corp. said it would not buy any of the newspapers owned by the rival John Fairfax Holdings Ltd.
- The Bank of Thailand said 1995 inflation would be 5.8 percent, up from 5 percent last year and above its target of 5.2 percent; the central bank blamed the increase on severe flooding.
- Chinese Petroleum Corp., Taiwan's state-run oil company, is to list 51 percent of its shares from July 1997; 20 percent of the shares will be sold to overseas investors.
- Michelin of France, the world's largest tire maker, is to manufacture tires in China through a joint venture company called Michelin Shen Yang Tire Co. in the city of Shen Yang.
- China's deputy prime minister, Zhu Rongji called for tightened supervision of China's experimental stock market and increased law enforcement.

(AFP, AP, Bloomberg, Reuters)

CZECH: Young Raiders' Coup

Continued from Page 13

go after control of the funds and their holdings.

To avoid detection by regulators and market players, Mr. Dienst said, they set up a string of shell companies that placed small ads in Czech newspapers offering cash for shares. In the moribund Czech market, they collected enough shares to "launch their first assaults: a raid on the investment funds of Agrobanka, the country's largest private bank, and the attempted takeover of the regional bank Plzenska Banka.

Agrobanka quickly threw in its cards and joined the Boys. By late October, flush with cash, the Boys launched a barrage of five-second television ads and a mass mailing to small shareholders: thousands more shares came flooding in.

Working this time through a brokerage house called Motoinvest, they moved to attack the large investment funds.

The stakes Motoinvest and allied companies quietly acquired — often as little as 30 percent of a given fund — were enough to threaten fund managers with dismissal if they did not deliver.

The funds owned by Komerční Banka, the country's second-largest bank, paid out close to 900 million koruny (\$34 million) for the Boys to leave them alone.

"They terrified/terrorized Komerční into buying their own shares by threatening to rip apart their portfolio," says Jack Schrantz, an analyst with Prague brokers Wood & Co.

At Zivnostenska Banka's First Investment Fund, managers are floating a new stock issue as a defensive move, hoping to stave off Motoinvest but diluting the holdings of friendly shareholders as well.

But the Creditanstalt investment fund, managed jointly by the Austrian bank, is expected to sell out to Agrobanka, the Boys' vehicle for that attack.

At three smaller funds, the Boys have taken full control.

The entire operation has been highly leveraged, and now the Boys are using their control over Agrobanka to finalize their buyout of Plzenska Banka and take control of the loans they used to start the operation, closing the circle.

Loose Czech securities laws, which are expected to change next year, made their moves possible. Bloc share trades can be made off the exchange, little disclosure is required, and minority holders have few rights.

Often, blocs of choice listed stocks are traded at premiums of 10 to 100 percent over the quoted prices.

Those who can assemble such blocs can make a killing. Typically, analysts and brokers say, raiders and unscrupulous fund managers strip shares from their own funds at listed prices, then resell them in a bloc

at a vast premium. "Until fresh capital comes in, the whole Czech market is a kind of glorified shell game between banks and funds," said Mark Valenta, a banker with Raiffeisen Capital Investment.

Jan Svejnar, the University of Pittsburgh economist who conceived the Czech privatization program, said the market must become more transparent, but he credited the Boys with advancing the Czech economic transformation. "I think it's good; it's the consolidation of power with people who are capable of restructuring the firms," he said. "But it's a rough way to go about it."

MARTIN CURRIE GEFINOR FUND MANAGEMENT COMPANY
Société anonyme
Registered office: 15, avenue Emile Reuter
Luxembourg
R.C. Luxembourg B 21 167

NOTICE TO THE HOLDERS OF SHARES IN SCOTTISH WORLD FUND

In consideration of the future reorganization of the Custodian Bank, the Management Regulations of Scottish World Fund has been amended and the prospectus has been updated consequently; the new documents will be available at the registered office of the Management Company, 15, avenue Emile Reuter, Luxembourg, December 21st, 1995.

Martin Currie Gefinor Fund Management Company S.A.
Société Générale Alsacienne de Banque Luxembourg Branch

KCRC HONG KONG
Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation

QUALIFICATION OF TENDERERS WESTERN CORRIDOR RAILWAY PROJECT

The Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation ("KCRC") intends to commence preliminary engineering for the Western Corridor Railway Project ("WCR").

The WCR Project is a 52 km double-track electrified railway system for passenger and freight services, comprising 11 stations, a maintenance depot and container freight facilities.

KCRC proposes to appoint qualified consultants to perform preliminary engineering for the Project in the following areas:

- Civil/Structural to include Architecture
- Town Planning and Traffic Impact Analysis for Property Development
- Tunnel Ventilation/Aerodynamics
- Safety/Reliability
- Light Rail Transit System Interfaces

A more detailed description of the preceding work activities will be included in Pre-qualification Questionnaire.

Requests for the Pre-qualification Questionnaire should be made on company letterhead by facsimile to the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation at (852) 2601-2671 no later than 6th January 1996. A Pre-qualification Questionnaire will be returned by courier.

KCRC will, at its sole discretion, evaluate responses to the Pre-qualification Questionnaire. Those organisations which KCRC determines to be suitably qualified will be invited to tender.

No communications in response to this advertisement will be accepted by KCRC except by facsimile at the above noted facsimile number.

Do walk on the grass.

Green keeping to the very highest standard. And a climate that allows you to play in the sun all day long.

A word of warning however: There's always an abundance of sand on the beach from the sea.

Don't forget to bring your sun cream with you.

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Wednesday's 4 p.m. Close
(Continued)

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for the transparency and accountability of the organization. This section outlines the various methods used to collect and analyze data, ensuring that all information is up-to-date and reliable.

2. The second part of the document focuses on the financial aspects of the organization. It provides a detailed breakdown of the budget, including income and expenses. This section also includes a comparison of the current financial state with the previous year, highlighting areas of growth and areas that need improvement.

3. The third part of the document addresses the operational challenges faced by the organization. It identifies the key areas where resources are being stretched and discusses the strategies being implemented to address these challenges. This section also includes a timeline for the completion of these strategies.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the future outlook for the organization. It outlines the long-term goals and the steps that will be taken to achieve them. This section also includes a discussion of the potential risks and how they will be managed.

5. The fifth part of the document is a conclusion that summarizes the key findings of the report. It reiterates the importance of the data presented and the actions that need to be taken. This section also includes a call to action for the organization's leadership.

6. The sixth part of the document is an appendix that contains additional information. This includes a list of references, a glossary of terms, and a list of figures and tables. This section is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the data and the analysis.

7. The seventh part of the document is a list of figures and tables. This section includes a detailed description of each figure and table, as well as the data it contains. This section is designed to provide a clear and concise summary of the data.

8. The eighth part of the document is a list of references. This section includes a list of all the sources used in the report, including books, articles, and websites. This section is designed to provide a clear and concise summary of the sources.

9. The ninth part of the document is a glossary of terms. This section includes a list of all the terms used in the report, along with their definitions. This section is designed to provide a clear and concise summary of the terms.

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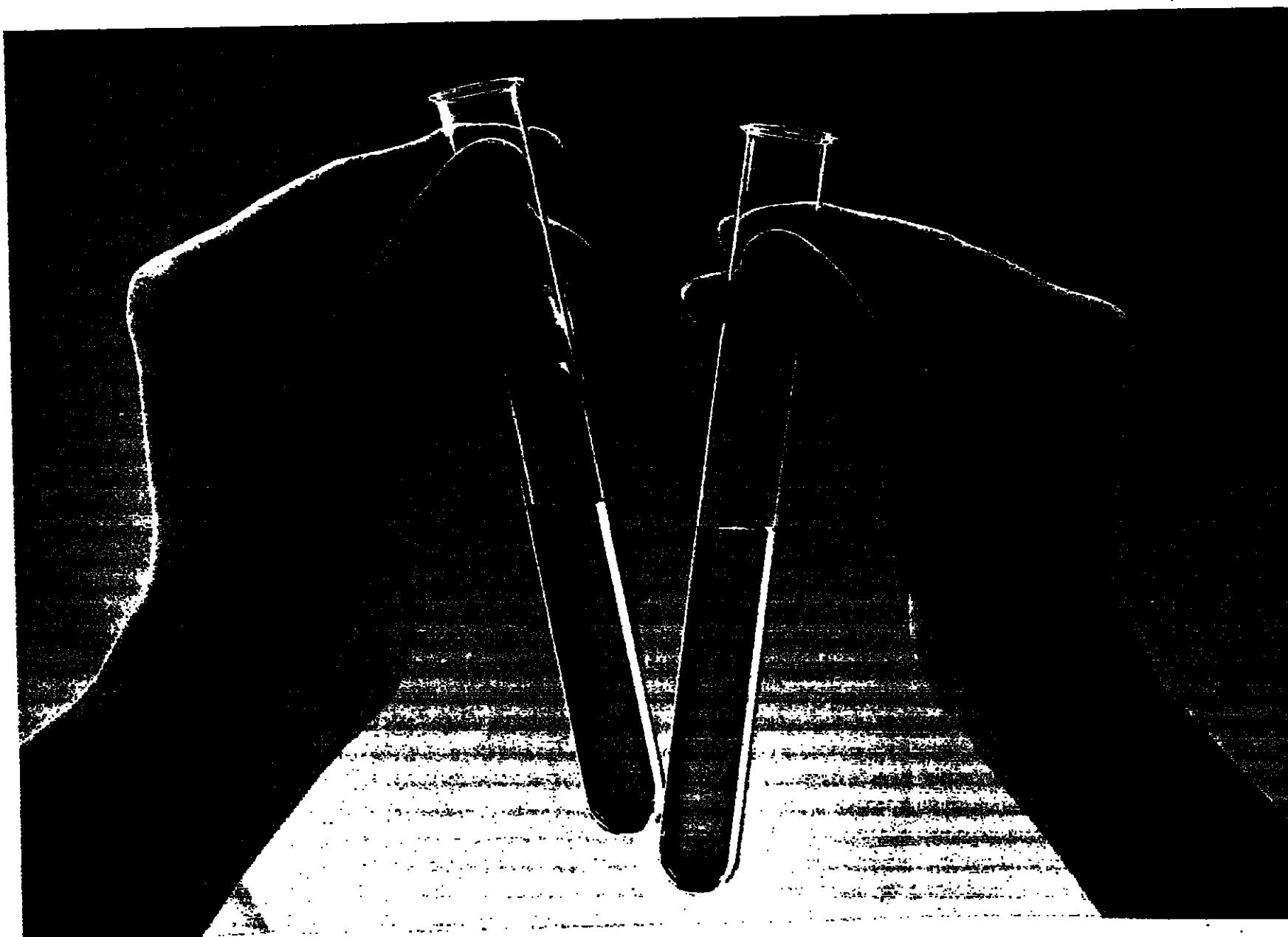
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It's a match that certainly deserves a toast. After all, it isn't every day you find the ideal partner. Or witness the happy union of two perfectly complementary parties, both from good backgrounds, bringing shared interests and a wealth of experience to the relationship.

Hoechst is one of the world's leading chemical companies with its main focus on pharmaceuticals.

Backed up by Roussel Uclaf, its important French affiliate, Hoechst is well up among the top suppliers of drugs, offering a broad range of highly successful products.

Marion is also a big name in pharmaceuticals, with heavy emphasis on development. The company's core activities round out Hoechst and Roussel's ranges in many key areas.



It's a good match too in geographical terms. While Hoechst and Roussel have a powerful presence in Europe, Marion has made a name for itself particularly as a partner to the large health care organizations in the United States. Together they form one of the world's greatest forces in health care and they are well positioned to move to the top in the next few years.

What brings the partners together is a commitment to meet patients' needs more quickly and effectively, and to develop innovative drugs to treat diseases that are currently incurable.

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D-65926 Frankfurt am Main
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Hoechst

Hoechst is an international group of companies spearheading innovation in health care, agriculture and chemicals. With a staff of 160,000 people worldwide, annual sales total DM 52 billion.

WORLD ROUNDUP



Steffi Graf was the ITF women's player of the year again in 1995.

Double Winners

TENNIS Pete Sampras and Steffi Graf were named Wednesday as the International Tennis Federation's world champions for 1995. Sampras won the award for the third straight year, while Graf was named for the sixth time in the past nine years.

Sampras won Wimbledon and the U.S. Open this year and led the United States to victory in the Davis Cup final against Russia. Graf won all three grand slam tournaments she entered—the French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S.—and suffered only two defeats during the year. (Reuters)

Pakistan Crushes Kiwis

CRICKET Pakistan thrashed New Zealand in a one-day match by 54 runs in Wellington to take a 2-1 lead in the four-match series. Pakistan batted first and scored 261 for four wickets before bowling New Zealand out for 207 in 45 overs. Aamir Sohail and Inzamam-ul-Haq scored half centuries for Pakistan. (Reuters)

Cubs Re-Sign Grace

BASEBALL Mark Grace returned to the Chicago Cubs, and Jody Reed went back to the San Diego Padres. Grace agreed to a \$9.05 million, two-year deal Tuesday with the Cubs, while Reed signed for \$1.4 million for two years. Rod Beck agreed to a \$6 million, two-year contract with the San Francisco Giants, one of a half-dozen deals as the deadline approached for offering 1996 contracts to players on 40-man rosters. (AP)

NFL Agrees to Labor Pact

FOOTBALL The National Football League and its players union agreed Tuesday on a contract extension through the 2002 season. The agreement adds one year to the current contract, with the option for two more. The agreement, in negotiation for more than a year, was held up by franchise moves. It must be ratified by three-quarters of the owners.

Carlton Haselrig, the suspended New York Jets guard missing since Nov. 27, is expected to be extradited to Pennsylvania after being arrested in Georgia. (AP)

Boxer Eyes the NBA

BOXING Roy Jones, the International Boxing Federation super middleweight champion, said that if Nigel Benn does not fight him, he will retire from boxing and begin a professional basketball career. (AP)



HELLO SAYONARA: The \$2 million U.S. yacht sailing through Sydney harbor Wednesday in practice for the Sydney-Hobart race, which starts on Tuesday.

Hi-Tech on High Seas for a Space Age Sailboat

REUTERS
SYDNEY — For 20 years, sailors have been tried in vain to break the record for the Sydney-to-Hobart yacht race, despite the millions of dollars being spent on yacht design and construction.

But this year technology in the shape of a computer-designed, \$2 million U.S. maxi named Sayonara may finally beat treacherous weather and the 900 kilometers (400 miles) that separate Sydney from Hobart, on Australia's southern island, Tasmania.

Sayonara is the first of a new class of yacht, the ILC maxi. When it sets out on the race to Hobart next Tuesday, its crew will include Rupert Murdoch, the media tycoon, who last competed in the race 31 years ago.

Sayonara uses a carbon construction similar to the U.S. space shuttle, computer-molded sails of bulletproof kevlar and America's Cup deck layout.

"This is the first of a new generation of yachts and we really don't know its full potential," said the skipper, Geoff Stagg, a veteran of the Whitbread round-the-world race.

"It is a very, very sophisticated piece of equipment. It's a showcase of high technology, engineering and design."

Sayonara's narrower hull is made of foam sandwiched between layers of laminated carbon, which has only

recently been taken off a list of materials banned for use in ocean-racing yachts because of past failures at sea.

The use of carbon longitudinally stiffens the 23.8 meter (78-foot) yacht, an advantage when it slams headlong into the rough conditions in the Tasman Sea. But it leaves the boat lighter and more responsive.

"It sails like a dinghy, not like a dump truck," says Sayonara's sail master, Bill Erkelens. "It's very responsive. You can feel the difference in a sail trim without the use of high-tech computers."

Sayonara can change its configurations of displacement and sail plan for different race conditions, without changing its keel and rudder.

For the Sydney-to-Hobart voyage, Sayonara has installed a new sailing rig and had 2,268 kilograms (5,000 pounds) of lead added to its hull, giving the boat a displacement of 24,440 kilograms (53,880 pounds).

Sayonara's sails were made using a computer controlled molding process, with a mylar core and kevlar layers increasing in areas of greatest wind pressure. This allows a seamless sail, no stitches, and a near perfect shape.

The deck layout has been copied from the latest America's Cup yachts, using hydraulically operated jib cars and lightweight fittings.

"All the gear on deck is the same technology as

America's Cup — it's just street legal," Erkelens, the yacht's sail master, said.

In its first outing on Sydney Harbor last week, Sayonara notched an impressive 10.2 knots on a reach in only 8 to 10 knots of wind. The U.S. maxi ketch Kialoa averaged 10.2 knots sailing downwind in setting the Hobart-Sydney race record — two days, 14 hours, 36 minutes, 56 seconds — in 1975.

Race officials have made Sayonara the even money favorite, but can the yacht, even with a 23-strong crew stacked with America's Cup and Whitbread sailors, break the race record?

The 1983 America's Cup winning skipper, John Bertrand of Australia, says, "Certainly on paper this maxi will be faster than any other maxi that has ever raced, but the thing that is variable out there is weather."

The Sydney-to-Hobart race is notorious for bruising yachting egos, and turning multimillion dollar yachts into splintered wrecks. A southerly gale against the southerly running current in eastern Australia can produce disaster in the Tasman Sea. In 1993 more than half the fleet was forced to retire, many with their hulls cracked.

Stagg, a New Zealander who has competed in 13 Sydney-to-Hobart races, is realistic. "We are after that very elusive record set by Kialoa in 1975," he says, "but first you must finish the race."

Lucky Bounces Keep Alive Devils' Jinx on Flyers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
The fans hardly warmed their seats when Philadelphia scored, and before they even finished announcing that goal, the Flyers had another.

Soon, Philadelphia had a two-man advantage.

Another long night for New Jersey? Not quite. Even when the Devils are

NHL ROUNDUP

going badly, they seem to find a way to beat the Flyers. All the Devils needed Tuesday night was a couple of lucky bounces and the Flyers defenseman Chris Therien.

A pass by Therien bounced off the skate of the Devils center, Petr Sykora, for the tying goal, and a shot by Bill Guerin off Therien's skate landed in the net at 2:13 of overtime, giving the Devils a 5-4 victory Tuesday night. The victory was only the

Devils' second in eight games, but it was their third in as many games against Philadelphia.

The loss at New Jersey snapped the Flyers' three-game winning streak and it came in a game in which Philadelphia blew leads of 2-0, 3-2 and 4-3. Even more distressing was that the Flyers squandered a full two-minute, two-man advantage shortly after jumping to the 2-0 lead.

Eric Lindros put them ahead 4-3 by converting a Sykora giveaway at 8:06 of the final period.

With the clock winding down, Therien got the puck behind his net and passed toward the side boards. But it hit Sykora's skate near the goal line, and shot between the goaltender, Ron Hextall, and the goalpost.

The game-winner came with Flyers defenseman Karl Dykhuizen in the penalty box for holding. Guerin skated into the Flyers' zone and shot from just above the right

circle. It hit Therien's skate and went in the net, leaving Hextall with nothing to do but slam his stick into the goalpost.

"That's a play coach tries to tell you, deflect their shots," Therien said. "I deflected it right into our net."

Valeri Zelepukin and Randy McKay also scored for the Devils. Pat Falloon scored twice for Philadelphia, which also got early goals from Mikael Renberg and Lindros.

Shane 7, Mighty Ducks 4 Owen Nolan had a career-high four goals and added an assist as San Jose snuffed a three-game losing streak by winning at Anaheim.

The victory was the Sharks' fourth in nine games under their interim coach, Jim Wilkey, one more than they had in 25 games under Kevin Constantine.

Penguins 7, Flames 1 Mario Lemieux had a goal and three assists as Pittsburgh beat Calgary before the Penguins' smallest home crowd in nearly 10 years. Attendance was just 7,170 because of a snowstorm.

Jaromir Jagr had a goal and two assists, and Ron Francis had three assists as the Penguins won their 10th in 12 games.

Lightning 6, Jets 3 Chris Gratton's power-play goal broke a tie, and Tampa Bay set a team record with six third-period goals against Winnipeg.

Shane 4, Islanders 1 Shayne Corson had two goals and an assist, and Grant Fuhr allowed just one goal for the 11th time this season for St. Louis.

Fuhr, who has started every game, tied his career high with his 33d consecutive start, a mark he also reached in the 1987-88 season with the Edmonton Oilers.

Austrian Women Stay in Control

REUTERS
VEYSONNAZ, Switzerland — Alexandra Meissnitzer continued her brilliant form on Wednesday with another victory in a women's Alpine skiing World Cup super-giant slalom.

The Austrian clocked one minute 28.72 seconds on the 1,640-meter course of artificial snow to notch her second consecutive super-giant success after her first World Cup victory in Val d'Isere early this month.

It was also her fifth trip to the podium in as many races.

Heidi Zurbiggen of Switzerland was second with 1:28.90 with Michaela Dorfmeister of Austria, winner of a downhill Saturday in St. Anton, Austria, taking third place with 1:29.17.

The victory took Meissnitzer to the head of the overall standings with 448 points. The previous leader, Karja Seizinger of Germany, who came in fifth Wednesday, slipped to second on 405.

The race was marred by an accident involving Florence Massada of France, who fell heavily after the finish and had to be taken to a hospital by helicopter. The race was stopped for 20 minutes.

Meissnitzer, 23, said: "I feel in the form of my life but I still cannot believe that I have been on the podium five times in a row."

Meissnitzer, who started sixth, said: "I was not sure I had won today till the end as the visibility had got somewhat better and there were a lot of good skiers left to come."

All the Swiss hopes were pinned on



Alexandra Meissnitzer racing on the way to a victory in Veysonnaz.

Zurbiggen after Heidi Zeller-Bühler failed to start because of a training injury Tuesday.

Defeat by just 0.18 seconds left Zurbiggen still chasing her first World Cup victory.

Seizinger posted the best intermediate time but made mistakes on the lower half of the slope. It was another great day for the Austrian women. They had taken the first three places in the second downhill in St. Anton on Sunday. Only Zurbiggen, who placed second, prevented another top-three sweep Wednesday and the Austrians took three of the top four spots.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Kind of wool
- 6 San —, Calif.
- 10 Ones making a scene
- 14 Let up, as a storm
- 15 Once follower

DOWN

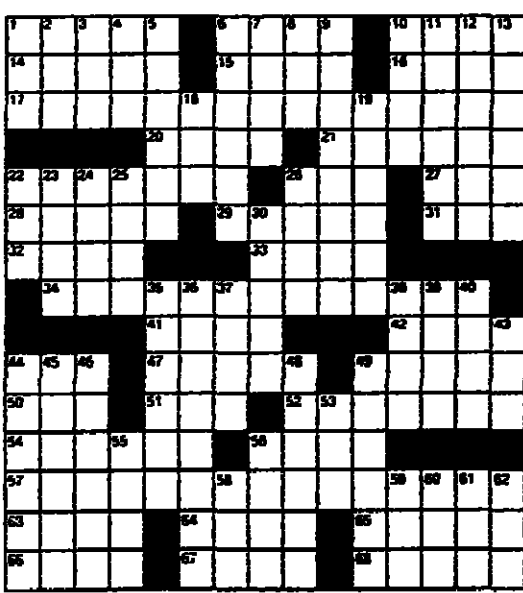
- 17 Pamphlet
- 18 Writer's expertise
- 20 Communicate silently
- 21 Decorate lavishly
- 22 Incline

ACROSS

- 16 Lumberjack
- 17 Pamphlet
- 18 Writer's expertise
- 20 Communicate silently
- 21 Decorate lavishly
- 22 Incline

DOWN

- 19 Logo
- 20 Communicate silently
- 21 Decorate lavishly
- 22 Incline



C. New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz.

Solution to Puzzle of Dec. 20

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SPORTS

When He's Needed, Jordan Is There

The Associated Press
After playing a supporting role for several games, Michael Jordan was back in his accustomed spot as the focal point of the streaking Chicago Bulls.

Jordan, who has let Scottie Pippen carry the load lately, scored 32 points as the Bulls

NBA ROUNDUP

beat injury-ravaged Dallas, 114-101, Tuesday night to extend their winning streak to 11 games.

Pippen, who averaged 31.5 points, 9.5 rebounds and eight assists in his previous four games, played only 29 minutes and left for good after the Bulls took an 81-72 lead with 1:25 left in the third quarter. He finished with 13 points, four rebounds and four assists.

"Scottie didn't have his game, so I did what I had to do," Jordan said.

Jordan, playing with a strained back and dislocated finger, was taken out with 8:42 to go as the Bulls finished a stretch of five games in seven nights.

"It was nice for us to get some rest at the end," Pippen said. "I didn't have a whole lot to give." Dallas' coach, Dick Motta, was ejected for arguing with the referee, Dan Crawford, with 6:32 left.

"We probably got fouled 10 times that they didn't call," said Motta, who missed the previous two games because of his father's death.

Tony Dumas scored 24 points for the Mavericks, who have lost 14 of 16 since a 5-1 start. Dallas played without its injured stars Jamal Mashburn and Jason Kidd.

Rockets 103, Suns 98 in Houston. Hakeem Olajuwon had 31 points and 17 rebounds as the Rockets overcame the loss of Clyde Drexler. Drexler was carried off the court on a stretcher early in the second period after colliding with Phoenix's forward Charles Barkley. Drexler has a deep bruise and is listed as day-to-day.

Cavaliers 100, Timberwolves 95 at Cleveland. Terrell Brandon scored a ca-

reer-high 32 points and the Cavs rallied in the fourth quarter to spoil Flip Saunders' debut as Minnesota's coach. Saunders, a two-time Continental Basketball Association coach of the year who grew up near Cleveland, replaced the fired Bill Blair.

Pistons 94, Raptors 82. Grant Hill led Detroit to victory at Toronto with 26 points and 11 rebounds. After the Raptors pulled level at 72-72 on Damon Stoudamire's basket, the Pistons took control. Detroit shot only 41 percent from the field, but made 34 of 39 free throws.

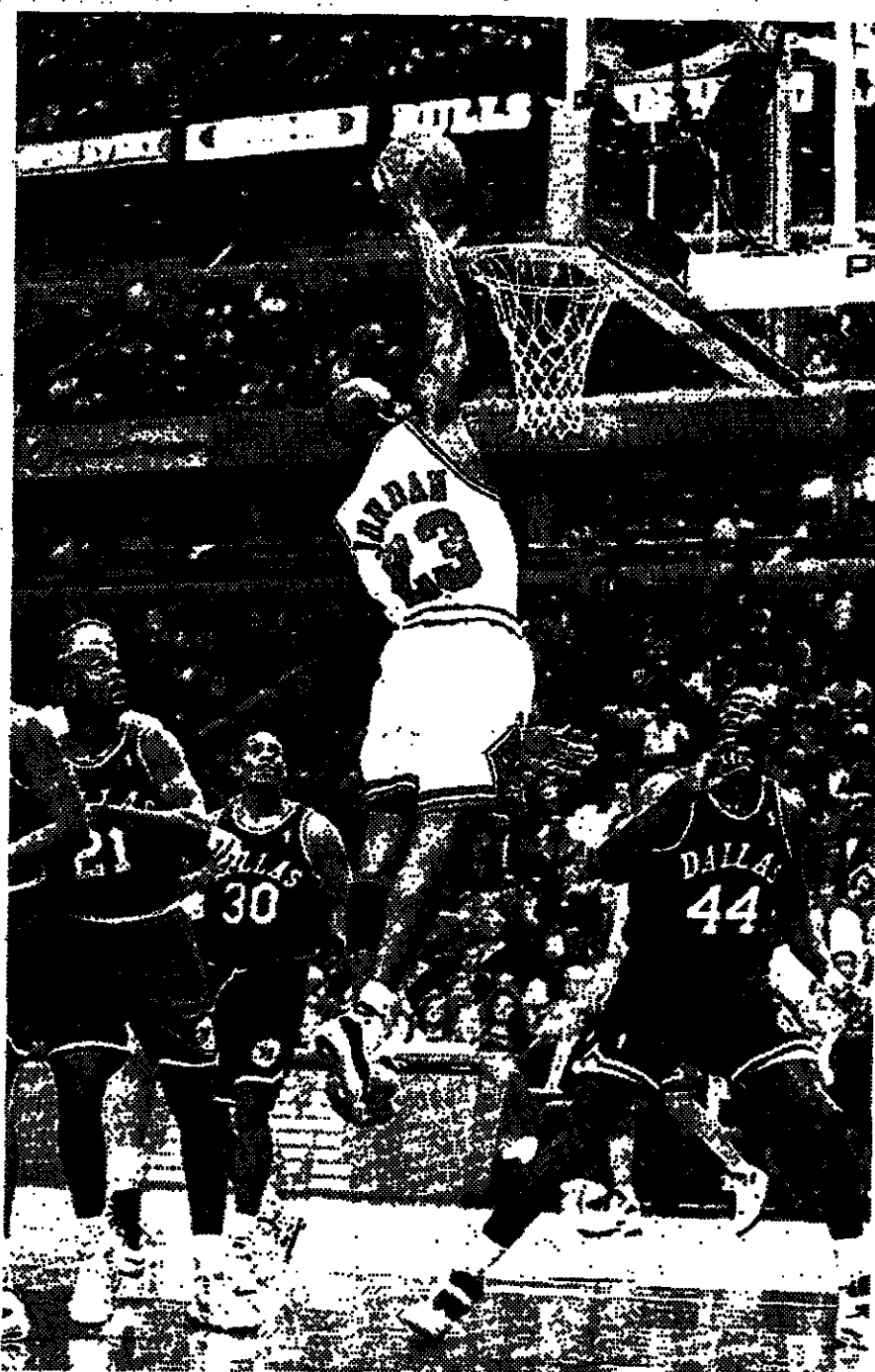
Lakers 100, Bucks 105. Nick Van Exel's 24 points helped Los Angeles hold off the Bucks in Milwaukee. Marty Conlon scored a season-high 17 points; all in the fourth quarter, as the Bucks rallied to take a 100-95 lead. But Van Exel passed to Anthony Peeler for a three-pointer and then made a three-pointer of his own to put the Lakers ahead for good.

Grizzlies 94, SuperSonics 93 at Vancouver. Blue Edwards hit a three-pointer with 1:12 remaining and then sank two free throws to give the Grizzlies their first victory over a team with a winning record. Vancouver has won two of four after a 19-game losing streak.

Suns 111, Trail Blazers 103. David Robinson scored 31 points and Sean Elliott 27 as San Antonio rallied to beat visiting Portland. Robinson had 10 points and six rebounds in the final quarter as the Suns won their third straight following a three-game losing streak.

Bulls 108, Clippers 104 in Los Angeles. Juwan Howard scored 27 points and Chris Webber had 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Bulls. Brian Williams scored a season-high 33 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for the Clippers.

Warriors 102, Hornets 99. Rony Seikaly had 24 points and 19 rebounds as Golden State beat road-weary Charlotte. Seikaly's tip-in with 20 seconds left gave the Warriors the lead, and his two free throws with 4.3 seconds remaining clinched the victory.



The Dallas Mavericks stand back, giving Michael Jordan plenty of room to maneuver. Jordan scored 32 points in the Chicago Bulls' 114-101 victory.

N.Y. Boos Riley's Return Knicks Crush Heat to the Joy of Fans

By Mike Wise and Jason Diamos
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Spike Lee, unofficial fan No. 1 at Madison Square Garden these days, was asked how he thought the Garden crowd would respond to the return of Pat Riley.

"They're going to be on him," said Lee before taking his court-side seat for Riley's first appearance since he jumped the New York Knicks to become a part-owner/general manager/head coach of the Miami Heat.

Riley was showered with boos when he made his entrance onto the Garden floor before the Knicks-Heat game Tuesday night. Riley responded by blowing kisses to the Garden crowd and waving for the Knicks faithful to increase the volume.

The boos increased when Riley's name was announced (as opposed to a tremendous ovation for Don Nelson, the new Knicks coach). Among the boos for Riley, however, were a smattering of cheers.

And then, just before the opening tipoff, John Starks, Derek Harper and Patrick Ewing went over to shake their old coach's hand and give him a hug. The boos again were everywhere, but in the end, they were met with some more cheers.

"Typical New York," said Sandra Foreman from her perch in the top row of seats. "We wouldn't be New Yorkers if we didn't do it," said Foreman's friend, Sharon Murphy.

The New York Knicks did not triumph in a basketball game Tuesday night as much as the Garden crowd did in a bullfight.

The Knicks beat the Miami Heat convincingly, 89-70, ruling the inside and moving to 18-6 on the season.

Riley's Heat, without the injured Alonzo Mourning and Billy Owens, fell to 13-10 and lost for the seventh time in the past eight games.

When Charlie Ward, whom Riley used sparingly last season, entered the game in the second quarter, a fan called out, "Hey Pat, that's Charlie Ward." Ward finished with 10 points in 22 minutes. He made three of five

field goals, had three assists, two steals and provided a backcourt spark for the Knicks.

By the sound of the third-quarter horn, after Derek Harper had rolled in a three-pointer with Riley standing a few feet behind him — his arms folded across his chest, wearing a look of resignation — the crowd began to chant his name derisively: "Ri-ley, Ri-ley."

The Knicks led, 64-52, and in a defensive struggle like this one even Riley knew that a 12-point lead was as good as 20 heading into the fourth quarter. The crowd kept chanting, Riley slowly walked back to the bench.

Somehow, through all the summer controversy, the faked resignation, the print war with the Garden's president, Dave Checketts, Riley has supplanted Reggie Miller as New York's favorite basketball villain.

Riley was greeted with placards ranging from "Pat Who?" to "Riley Coyote" and "Nelson Dresses Better Too!"

"Reading his book, 'The Winner Within,' he writes that his father told him, 'Son, there's a time when a man has to be a man,'" said Lee. "His own words of wisdom should apply to him. He should have faced the media and the fans instead of resigning by fax."

Bob Gutkowski, the former president of the Garden, said he was present mainly for the spectacle of Riley's return.

"I think the fans were hurt," Gutkowski said. "One, because Pat decided to leave and two, because they were not crazy with the way he left. But the most important thing was that Pat Riley gave the city of New York four exciting years. And once you get beyond the hurt, you should be thankful for that."

At the end Riley walked off the floor to a chorus of boos. But his staying charisma was stood out.

"Pat's a stud, I like him," said Nancy Jewell, who was watching the game with her friend, Kathryn McCarthy. "I kind of liked the way the boos were overcome by the cheers," added McCarthy.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

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Orlando

Miami

Washington

Boston

New Jersey

Philadelphia

CENTRAL DIVISION

Chicago

Indiana

Cleveland

Atlanta

Detroit

Milwaukee

Toronto

WESTERN CONFERENCE

MINNESOTA DIVISION

Houston

Utah

San Antonio

Dallas

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

L.A. Clippers

PACIFIC DIVISION

Sacramento

Seattle

L.A. Lakers

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

L.A. Clippers

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit

Toronto

San Antonio

Houston

Dallas

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

L.A. Clippers

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NFL STANDINGS

AFC DIVISION

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New York

Pittsburgh

Cincinnati

Cleveland

Indianapolis

Jacksonville

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L.A. Clippers

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit

Toronto

San Antonio

Houston

Dallas

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

L.A. Clippers

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

New York

Orlando

Miami

Washington

Boston

New Jersey

Philadelphia

CENTRAL DIVISION

Chicago

Indiana

Cleveland

Atlanta

Detroit

Milwaukee

Toronto

WESTERN CONFERENCE

MINNESOTA DIVISION

Houston

Utah

San Antonio

Dallas

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

L.A. Clippers

PACIFIC DIVISION

Sacramento

Seattle

L.A. Lakers

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

L.A. Clippers

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit

Toronto

San Antonio

Houston

Dallas

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

L.A. Clippers

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit

Toronto

San Antonio

Houston

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L.A. Clippers

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit

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TUESDAY'S RESULTS

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L.A. Clippers

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

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Golden State

L.A. Clippers

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

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L.A. Clippers

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

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TUESDAY'S RESULTS

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Golden State

L.A. Clippers

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit

Toronto

San Antonio

Houston

Dallas

Phoenix

Portland

Golden State

L.A. Clippers

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit

Toronto

San Antonio

Houston

Dallas

Phoenix

Portland

ART BUCHWALD

The Beggars Opera

WASHINGTON — I was walking by Union Station the other day when I saw a man dressed as Santa Claus ringing a bell. He looked terribly familiar.

"Congressman Bleeder, what are you doing begging for coins?"

"I haven't been paid, and I need to get some cash for Christmas."

"Why haven't you been paid?"

"Congress voted not to pay its members until we come to a compromise on the budget."

"Why would you do something like that?"

"We didn't know we were doing it. Some dumb freshman congressman attached the amendment to a bill we passed giving each member of Congress a poinsettia plant for Christmas. Nobody read what

was actually in the bill until our checks failed to arrive. It wasn't a joke — particularly at holiday time when everyone is supposed to be in good spirits."

"Perhaps the person who introduced the amendment was thinking of the 300,000 people who were out of work at this moment."

"That has nothing to do with us. The opposition is to blame because all they want to do is spend, spend, spend instead of giving the money to the wealthy taxpayers who truly need it."

"But maybe it will make you think twice before closing down the government. Although you'll probably try it again in the upcoming election year if you think it will play in Florida."

The congressman protested, "They can't do this to me. I have bills to pay and children coming home from college and my country club dues are in arrears."

"Maybe the people who were furloughed have bills, too."

"But they are not essential to the government, and Congress is. If it weren't for us, there would never be a balanced budget."

"Is there one now?"

"Not at the moment. But I just met with a senator from the opposition who was sleeping on the next grate, and he sounded very hopeful."

"How much have you collected in your cup so far?"

"I'm still short a few thousand dollars. The public discovered that I was a congressman and won't give me a dime."

"Can you blame them?"

"Congressmen need love, too."

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"But they are not essential to the government, and Congress is. If it weren't for us, there would never be a balanced budget."

"Is there one now?"

After Protests, Reviews: Is 'Nixon' a Good Movie?

By Hal Hinson

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Oliver Stone has said that he and Richard Nixon, the subject of his powerful new film, "share the same darkness." But they also share the same troubling combination of genius and self-defeating perversity.

"Nixon" is an audacious biography rich in imagination and originality, with a provocative, often subversive sense of character and history. Dense and challenging, it is also undimmed in places by Stone's obsessions just as dramatically as Richard Nixon was undimmed by his.

Still, without question, "Nixon" dwarfs everything in the American cinema since "Schindler's List." The movie's landscape is the Cold War at a flash point, when American confidence in the Nixon administration and the war in Vietnam had bottomed out, and the repercussions following the failed Watergate burglary had erupted into a full-blown constitutional crisis. It was an epic time. And not only does "Nixon" convey the gravity of these historic events, it calculates their full weight in human terms as well.

"Nixon" doesn't just take you onto the field where history is made, it takes you inside the huddle. But with Stone, you're always waiting for the other shoe to drop — for the "stink bomb." As an artist with an evangelistic social conscience, Stone considers it his responsibility to lob hand grenades into the carefully foreshadowed conventional wisdom. The problem with Stone's provocations, though, is that they grow out of the same impulse that drove him to slip LSD into his father's evening cocktail, and then about it. They're tiresome and simple-minded and in general make you want to kick him in the teeth.

This time, the weak link is Stone's lurid fantasy about Howard Hunt, the Kennedy assassination and the famed 18-minute gap in the tape of a June 17, 1972, conversation between the president and executive assistant H.R. Haldeman — a hallucination guaranteed to make the staunchest Nixon detractor cry foul. But not even the filmmaker's own willfulness can cancel out his achievement. There is a genuine connection here among Stone, star Anthony Hopkins and his subject. Instead of the juvenile assault many expected, the movie suggests that the director has finally grown up as an artist. Never in his 20-year career has he worked at this level of maturity, empathy or restraint. Though the production weighs in at an



In "Nixon" White House, the president (Hopkins) and Haldeman (James Wood).

unwieldy 190 minutes, every detail is engrossing, from the production design (by Victor Kempster) to the costumes (by Richard Horning) to the often uncanny work of the actors. At the top of a long list of superlative supporting players are Joan Allen, who gives the female performance of the year as Pat Nixon; David Hyde Pierce as the mirror image of John Dean; and James Woods as a perfectly steely Haldeman. Best of all is the haunted, virulent performance of Hopkins. From the first glimpse we get of a grotesque, almost bestial Nixon, covering, deformed, braced for attack, it's clear that the filmmaker and his star are dealing with the inner Nixon and with history as seen through the distorting lens of his subject's raging paranoia.

Stone's portrait begins in November 1973 as the walls of Nixon's character are crumbling. From there, the events of the 37th president's life scatter across the screen like a string of beads. We watch as ambassadors are exchanged for favors, enemies are threatened with IRS and FBI investigations, secret papers are shredded, and hush money is authorized by the

president himself. Stone creates an astounding degree of involvement in the private conduct of these titanic public figures. In every scene the atmosphere is palpably charged, claustrophobic, suffocating. The president and his men speak in a terse, secretive code — the language of lawyers pretending to be jocks and men of war.

You can also sense the longing in Hopkins's Nixon to be a regular guy, to be one of the boys, like his upper-class rival, Jack Kennedy. But there is no lightness in Nixon. He wears his tragedy on his sleeve; shrewdly, Stone has used Nixon's famous "loser" image not to turn the man into a fool but to create a sense of compassion bordering on pity.

Stone seems to come by this sympathy toward Nixon with surprisingly little effort, but it's Hopkins who brings these ideas to life through expert impersonation together with what perhaps should be called alchemy. Even in full Nixon drag, with every gesture and tic down pat, Hopkins never actually resembles the late president. Instead, the actor seems to have made contact with the dark germ of Nixon's self-loathing.

Stone also pays homage to Nixon the warrior, the titan of international diplomacy, architect of détente and the famous opening to China; the Nixon who campaigned on the promise to "Bring Us Together." This is Nixon the master geopolitician, the Nixon who speaks of himself in the third person and is so obsessed with his place in history that he cannot bring himself to destroy the damning tapes.

On the other hand, he is his beloved mother's "faithful dog," the man known at Whitman College as the human tackling dummy, who drove his future wife out on dates with other men.

Who is the real Nixon? The movie asks, echoing (as Stone does repeatedly) that other American epic of power corrupted, "Citizen Kane." Stone's answer is as much of a crock as Orson Welles's was. He is many things, Stone says, but primarily, at his heart, the tortured protagonist is a sort of political Quasimodo, an ugly troll, who sold his soul for high office in hopes that the people would love him.

Unfortunately, they hated him — or so he thought — and he could never figure out why. Stone offers selected fantasies based on details from Dick Nixon's childhood in Yorba Linda, California — the work ethic, the loss of both brothers to tuberculosis, and, in particular, a pivotal confrontation between the boy (played by Corey Carrier) and his grim-faced Quaker mother (Mary Steenburgen) over a lie — as seeds of the future president's undoing. Though Stone's past films have revolved around dominant father figures, here it is Nixon's mother who instills in her son a sense of higher purpose and pushes the socially maladjusted boy into the corrupting public arena. It's Paul Servino's vainly magisterial Henry Kissinger, though, who sums up Stone's take on the man. As he watches Nixon on TV attempting once again to convince the American people that he is not a crock, Kissinger murmurs, "Can you imagine what this man might have been had he ever been loved?"

Ultimately, Stone has Nixon suggest that his own head was the sacrifice required by the job of war over Vietnam. Stone's final view of the character is ambiguous, but to the extent that he accepts Nixon's view of himself as a victim of his transgressions, he reduces the president to something of a cheat. After all, the charges and expletives unleashed, the director seems to be saying that Nixon was a man like any other, partly good, partly bad. In doing so, he does what all sons symbolically do to their fathers: He cuts him down to size.

WEATHER

Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by Accu-Weather.

Europe	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Algeria	21/10	13/15	15/18	12/13
Amsterdam	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Antwerp	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Athens	16/22	17/22	18/22	16/22
Berlin	17/22	12/13	13/13	10/12
Brussels	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Bucharest	16/22	17/22	18/22	16/22
Cairo	24/28	25/28	26/28	24/28
Cardiff	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Copenhagen	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Dublin	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Edinburgh	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Frankfurt	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Geneva	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Hamburg	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Heidelberg	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
London	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Madrid	16/22	17/22	18/22	16/22
Mannheim	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Munich	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Nice	16/22	17/22	18/22	16/22
Oslo	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Paris	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Rome	16/22	17/22	18/22	16/22
Stockholm	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Vienna	16/22	17/22	18/22	16/22
Zurich	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12

Asia	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Bangkok	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Beijing	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Bombay	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Calcutta	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Canton	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Chongqing	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Colombo	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Dacca	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Delhi	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Hankow	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Harbin	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Hong Kong	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Kobe	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
London	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Manila	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Medan	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Osaka	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Shanghai	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12
Singapore	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Taipei	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Tokyo	10/12	11/12	12/12	10/12

Latin America	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Buenos Aires	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Cairo	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Caracas	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Colon	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Guatemala	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Havana	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
La Paz	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Lima	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Managua	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Medan	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Montevideo	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Quito	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Rio de Janeiro	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Santiago	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Tegucigalpa	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Tijuana	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Valparaiso	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30
Washington	24/30	25/30	26/30	24/30

WEEKEND SKI REPORT

Report	Depth	U	Mts.	Res.	Snow Last	Comments	Depth	U	Mts.	Res.	Snow Last	Comments	
Andorra	10	80	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing	Andorra	10	80	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
Pes de la Casa	50	80	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing	Corvira	20	250	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
Soldau	30	100	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing	Corvira	30	95	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
							Courmayeur	40	90	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
							Livigno	25	25	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
Austria							Norway						
Ischgl	40	85	Good	Open	Week 18/12	17 lifts open, great on glacier runs	Gaelli	50	50	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
Innsbruck	15	200	Good	Closed	Var 15/12	15 lifts open, great on glacier runs							
Kitzbuehl	10	60	Good	Open	Var 15/12	33 lifts open, perfect everywhere	Spain						
Lech	30	90	Good	Open	Var 15/12	20 lifts open, everything	La Molina	20	80	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
Oberghausen	50	95	Good	Some	Var 15/12	15 lifts open, skiing much improved							
Saalbach	25	50	Fair	Some	Var 14/12	40 lifts open, good & a little patchy	Switzerland						
Schladming	40	60	Good	Closed	Week 18/12	50e open, runs nice	Champery	0	30	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
St. Anton	15	120	Good	Some	Var 15/12	20 lifts open, everything	Crans Montana	5	50	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
							Davos	10	25	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
Canada							Grindelwald	10	25	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
Lake Louise	30	125	Good	Open	Week 18/12	10 lifts open, great skiing all over	Klosters	20	65	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
Whistler	40	160	Good	Some	Week 18/12	all 26 lifts open, superb skiing	St. Moritz	15	40	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
							Verbier	20	100	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
France							Wengen	22	30	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
Alpe d'Huez	40	100	Good	Some	Var 17/12	14 lifts open, good cover most runs	Zermatt	0	70	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
Avoriaz	40	65	Good	Some	Var 16/12	11/43 lifts open, runs good & limited							
Courchevel	25	40	Fair	Some	Var 15/12	16 lifts open, skiing snow forecast	U.S.						
Les Deux Alpes	25	170	Good	Closed	Week 18/12	20 lifts open, plenty of good skiing	Breckenridge	105	120	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
Mené	5	45	Fair	Some	Var 18/12	11 lifts open, skiing remains limited	Crested Butte	80	80	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
La Plagne	20	50	Fair	Closed	Var 18/12	12 lifts open, best skiing on glacier	Yellagong	30	20	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
Tignes	10	100	Good	Some	Var 15/12	14 lifts open, black gliding, not warm	Mammoth	115	200	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
Val d'Isère	15	100	Good	Some	Var 15/12	19 lifts open, limited snow forecast	Park City	60	110	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
Val Thorens	20	50	Fair	Some	Var 18/12	11 lifts open, open runs respectable	Telluride	60	70	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
							Vail	80	115	Good	Open	Var 15/12	100% open, good skiing
Germany													
Berchtesgaden	20	80	Good	Open	Var 13/12	53/1 lifts open, best over meadows							
Garmisch	5	190	Good	Open	Var 14/12	18 lifts open, runs superb							
Italy													
Bormio	10	25	Fair	Closed	Var 17/12	3 lifts open, limited skiing possible							

Key: U=U; Depth in cm on lower and upper slopes
leading to resort value; At, Artificial